Holding firm on Ukraine

U.S., NATO say there will be no concessions on Moscow's demands. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Tackling inflation

Fed indicates that it plans to raise interest rates as soon as March. **NEWS, PAGE 8**

Huskies get past DePaul

Ducharme's late basket lifts No. 10 UConn to 80-78 win over DePaul. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Clear and cold

Mostly sunny and cold, with a high of 28. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

Hartford Courant

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HARTFORD BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Food hall launches expansion

$6 million addition to shape Parkville Market as entertainment spot, home of Hog River Brewing

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Hartford's Parkville Market opened in 2020 just as the first wave of the pandemic swept through Connecticut, the odds seemingly stacked against it.

Two years later, however, the market has steadily added to its dining options, now offering 20 restaurant vendors, plus three bars.

Even with delays in the return of office workers to downtown, the market's developer, Carlos Mouta, sees a bright future. He is launching expansions into two of four buildings that encompass the market site, with plans for small and large event venues, a rooftop deck and a new home for the Hog River Brewing Co., which has outgrown its quarters across the street.

Altogether, the expansions come in at about $6 million and include $4 million in publicly funded loans from a joint development fund from the city of Hartford and the Capital Region Development Authority. The public loans target the building with the entertainment options.

What is Parkville Market? The market is a food hall styled after larger ones such as Chelsea Market in New York City and the Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia.

The market was created in the old Capitol City Lumber Co. building that stood vacant and decaying for years.

Vendors offer a smorgasbord of international delicacies and dining options that range from fried chicken and poke bowls to pho and ice cream. The market also hosts popups and special holiday-themed events.

Turn to Expansion, *Page 2*



President Joe Biden has nominated Vanessa Avery of the Connecticut state Attorney General's office to be the next U.S. Attorney for the state of Connecticut. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

'UNIVERSALLY RESPECTED'

President Biden nominates Vanessa Avery to be the first Black woman to serve as Connecticut's US Attorney

By Edmund H. Mahony | Hartford Courant

President Joe Biden has nominated associate state Attorney General Vanessa Avery to be Connecticut's next U.S. Attorney, the state's top federal law enforcement officer. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Avery, an associate state Attorney General, will be the first African American woman to serve as U.S. Attorney in Connecticut. Avery replaces former U.S. Attorney John Durham, who left office following Biden's election, and Leonard Boyle, who has held the office since on an interim basis.

Avery was one of six U.S. Attorney nominees announced by the White House early Wednesday morning.

"These individuals were chosen for their devotion to enforcing the law, their professionalism, their experience and credentials in this field, their dedication to pursuing equal justice for all, and their commitment to the independence of the Department of Justice," the White House said in a statement.

Avery has been Chief of the Division of Enforcement and Public Protection at the Connecticut Attorney General's Office since 2021, and an Associate Attorney General in that office since 2019.

"It's a really good choice — I talked with the senators about it and they're

Turn to Avery, *Page 2*

UConn appoints interim president

Maric has overseen increases in school's research funding

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

The UConn Board of Trustees voted unanimously Wednesday to appoint Dr. Radenka Maric, the school's vice president for research, innovation and entrepreneurship, as the university's new interim president.



Maric

"If we all think that we are here to give the skills, the knowledge and the opportunities to our students, we are going to be successful," Maric told the board at Wednesday's meeting.

Maric has overseen great strides in the university's research funding since starting as vice president for research in 2017.

The $375.6 million in new awards secured for UConn researchers in the 2020-21 fiscal year surpasses the previous year's then-record of $285.8 million, and is a 103% increase since 2017.

UConn now ranks first among New England public universities in external research funding, but still lags behind some other public flagships. Maric and the trustees

Turn to Maric, *Page 3*

Breyer to retire from Supreme Court

■ President Joe Biden said as a candidate that if he were given the chance to nominate someone to the court, he would make history by choosing a Black woman. Breyer's retirement should give Biden that opportunity. **News, Page 4**

■ Senate Democrats who have played defense for the last three Supreme Court vacancies plan to move swiftly to replace Breyer, using the rapid 2020 confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett as a new standard. **News, Page 4**

At 83, liberal justice's departure expected over the summer

By Mark Sherman and Michael Balsamo
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Liberal Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer is retiring, giving President Joe Biden an opening he has pledged to fill by naming the first Black woman to the high court.

Breyer, 83, has been a pragmatic force on a court that has grown increasingly conservative in recent years, trying to forge majorities with more moderate justices right and left of center.

Breyer has been a justice since 1994, appointed by President Bill Clinton. Along with the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Breyer opted not to step down the last time the Democrats controlled the White House and the Senate during Barack Obama's presidency. Ginsburg died in September 2020, and then-President Donald Trump filled the vacancy with a conservative justice, Amy Coney Barrett.

Breyer's departure, expected over the summer, won't change the 6-3 conservative advantage

Turn to Breyer, *Page 3*



Justice Stephen Breyer, the senior member of the high court's three-member liberal wing, was nominated to the court in 1994 by President Clinton. **ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021**

Manchester ends relationship with Parkade developer

Manchester has ended a relationship with developers who promised a $190 million rebirth of the Manchester Parkade, saying the partners moved too slowly. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Avery

from Page 1

very enthusiastic," Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday morning in New Britain. "I think it's a good thing for Connecticut."

She was an assistant U.S. Attorney in the office's civil division from 2014 to 2019.

From 2006 to 2014, Avery was a litigation attorney at the Hartford law firm McCarter & English.

She received a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1999 and an undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1996.

Avery's current boss, Attorney General William Tong, praised the nomination

"She is universally respected by every colleague she has worked with and has deep connections across the Connecticut legal community," Tong said. "In our work together, Vanessa always leads with integrity and a strong commitment to justice, and she insists on accountability and respect for the rule of law."

Edmund H. Mahony can be reached at emahony@courant.com

The second phase of the market will be in a building just east of the main venue. This building will focus on entertainment options, including an 11,000-square-foot ground floor space for concerts, stand-up comedy, weddings, corporate functions and other events. Developer Carlos Mouta said he hopes the space will be ready by late spring or early summer and will include a bar.

Expansion

from Page 1

A new restaurant will debut in February called "The Lettuce Bar," which will offer soups and salad.

The market has been averaging 65,000-75,000 visitors a month this winter, a number that is lower than expected because of the recent coronavirus surge but is expected to pick up as the latest wave of the coronavirus subsides.

Where will the expansion be? The second phase of the market, to be known as "The Hall at Parkville Market," will be created in a 30,000-square-foot building just to the east of the main market building.

This building will focus on entertainment options, including an 11,000-square-foot ground floor space for concerts, stand-up comedy, weddings, corporate functions and other events.

Mouta said he hopes the space will be ready by late spring or early summer and will include a bar.

Elsewhere on first floor, the plans envision a sports bar or restaurant and a commercial kitchen for catering events.

On an upper floor, there will be a smaller event space and bar, roughly half the size of the one on the ground floor. Above that, there would be a rooftop deck.

"There are no rooftops around here, and people love rooftops," Mouta said.

All this could be done for the fall, Mouta said, with more, larger restaurant stalls on the upper floor coming sometime in the future.



Developer Carlos Mouta stands on the balcony of the building next to Hartford's Parkville Market. The food hall is launching a $6 million expansion to bring more entertainment options to the venue. **COURANT FILE**

The stalls would be up to 1,000 square feet, nearly triple what is available in the main market building to accommodate vendors that are growing.

Where is the brewery going? The Hog River Brewery plans to expand across Park Street to a new, larger location.

The building would include larger spaces for its brewing operations, a rooftop deck and a patio that would feature a firepit. There also are discussions about building stairs that would link the brewery, set up on a hill, to the street below.

The relocation of the brewery could come later this year.

How does Parkville Market fit into the larger plans for the neighborhood? There is a push by city leaders and the private sector to create an arts and innovation corridor in Parkville, with Bartholomew Avenue as its "spine."

The vision calls for a mixed-use community of new apartments, restaurants and arts venues and start-up space fostering innovation, building on the neighborhood's long history of manufacturing.

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LOTTERY

Wednesday, Jan. 26

PLAY3 DAY
7 2 8 **WB:** 2

PLAY4 DAY
2 1 2 1 **WB:** 0

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
4 7 8 **WB:** 0

PLAY4 NIGHT
6 6 1 8 **WB:** 8

CASH 5
2 11 13 14 28

LUCKY FOR LIFE
19 30 32 36 41 **LB:** 12

LOTTO
4 14 20 32 37 43

MEGA MILLIONS
3 12 38 53 58 **MB:** 13 **MP:** 3

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1/27 *Griffin House*
"Rising Star" folk, pop/rock, acoustic artist who has been touring for more than 15 years and has recorded over 12 studio albums.

1/29 *Met Opera in HD: Rigoletto*
a bold new take on Verdi's timeless tragedy from Bartlett Sher. The Tony Award–winning director resets the opera's action in 1920s Europe. Baritone Quinn Kelsey brings his searing portrayal of the title role.

1/29 *Riders on the Storm*
A Tribute to The Doors, recreating a seance-like experience and mood for thousands of fans dozens of countries.

1/30 *Donna the Buffalo*
Since 1989, the roots rockers have played thousands of shows. Mixing zydeco, folk rock, country rock, reggae, and bluegrass.

2/5 *Bee Gees Gold*
With the detailed vocal stylings of John Acosta (Barry), Daryll Borges (Robin), Jeff Celentano (Maurice) as the brothers Gibb, there is a sensation that will make you blurt out, Wow.. I just seen and heard the Bee Gees!

2/7 *Missoula Children's Theatre: Red Riding Hood Auditions*
Take the stage at the Kate! All students, entering 1st grade through 12th grade are encouraged to audition. A free program of the Kate. Performances 2/12. Visit TheKate.org for more information.

2/9 *Della Mae*
Nashville-based string band with a reputation as a charismatic live act with some of the finest players in bluegrass, Americana and beyond.

2/10 *Duke Robillard*
Duke has carved out one of blues' most illustrious legacies, while also trodding some lofty related territories as a guitarist and songwriter.

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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

FROM PAGE ONE

Informants, FBI blur Whitmer kidnap case

Trial scheduled for March will focus on domestic terrorism

By Neil MacFarquhar
The New York Times



Five men charged with plotting to abduct Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer go on trial in March. **JEFF KOWALSKY/GETTY-AFP**

On a rainy night in northern Michigan in September 2020, a group of armed men divided among three cars surveyed the landscape around the vacation cottage of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, considering how to kidnap her as payback for her COVID-19 lockdown measures.

Two men descended from the lead car to inspect a bridge on Route 31 in nearby Elk Rapids, assessing what was needed to blow it up to delay any police response to the house on nearby Birch Lake.

After team members returned to the rural camp where they had already conducted military-style training exercises, a man identified as "Big Dan" in government documents asked the assembled group, "Everybody down with what's going on?" Another man responded, "If you are not down with the thought of kidnapping, don't sit here."

Of the dozen men on that mission, four of them including "Big Dan" were either government informants or undercover FBI agents, according to court documents.

The events of that night will be a key element when, on March 8, five men charged with plotting to abduct the Democratic governor will go on trial in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The trial is being closely watched as one of the most significant recent domestic terrorism cases, a test of Washington's commitment in the wake of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol to pursue far-right groups.

Both the prosecution and the defense are relying heavily on more than 1,000 hours of conversations and other events secretly recorded by informants or undercover agents.

The defense lawyers want the case thrown out on entrapment grounds, accusing investigators of "egregious overreaching" by manipulating the accused men to drive the plot forward.

Prosecutors will attempt to prove that the suspects were inclined toward the violence from the start.

In another challenge, prosecutors have made an unusual decision not to call to the witness stand three FBI agents with high-profile roles in the investigation. One agent was fired last summer after being charged with domestic violence. Another agent, while supervising "Big Dan," tried to build a private security consulting firm based in part on some of his work for the FBI.

All 14 suspects arrested in October 2020 were members of the Wolverine Watchmen or other armed, paramilitary groups. One of the six facing a federal kidnapping conspiracy charge pleaded guilty and is expected to testify against the rest. The other eight, who participated in some military-style training, were accused in two separate, ongoing state cases on a lesser charge of providing material support for terrorism.

In recent weeks, the already complicated case has become more entangled, with the two sides arguing over what evidence can be presented in federal court.

The informant known as "Big Dan" or "Confidential Human Source-2" in government papers will be the star witness for the prosecution. Descriptions of Dan's interactions with the suspects are rife throughout the court documents, and he already testified extensively in one state case last year.

Around March 2020, Dan, a veteran in his mid-30s who was wounded in the Iraq War, was working at the post office, looking online for ways to practice his military skills, according to the court documents, when the Wolverine Watchmen's Facebook page popped up. Members were adherents of the anti-government "boogaloo" movement who seek to speed a societal collapse.

Alarmed by their discussions about targeting law enforcement officers, Dan reported them to local police and eventually agreed to become an FBI informant, he said in state court. He was paid about $54,000 over the course of the roughly six-month investigation.

He was not alone. The FBI deployed at least 12 informants, as well as several undercover agents, according to defense filings.

On the nighttime surveillance operation of the governor's cottage, for example, the defense described "Big Dan" as the main organizer. Stephen Robeson, with a long history of both past crimes and work as an informant, was there, too. The "explosives expert" who could topple the bridge was actually an undercover FBI agent, as was a man in another vehicle.

The defense lawyers, using that same trove of evidence material, have built an entirely different scenario of what happened. They depict the accused as reluctant puppets who were entrapped.

The defense lawyers in the federal case either declined or ignored requests to comment, while a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney in Western Michigan said the office would not discuss pending criminal matters. The FBI referred questions to the U.S. attorney.

Sting operations using informants are a thorny tactic in terror cases. In those developed after 9/11, FBI agents often got involved when someone expressed interest in joining al-Qaida or in fomenting some kind of terrorist act.

Critics of such FBI methods include Michael German, a former undercover FBI agent. German, who is now a fellow at the Liberty & National Security Program of the Brennan Center for Justice, said, "Rather than focus on those crimes and investigating them, there appears to be more interest in this method of manufacturing plots for the FBI to solve."

Prosecutors argue that they remove real threats. Nils Kessler, the assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting the kidnapping suspects, has drawn parallels between their plans and the Jan. 6 attack. "As the Capitol riots demonstrated, an inchoate conspiracy can turn into a grave substantive offense on short notice," he wrote.

Still, prosecutors have sought to distance themselves from Robeson, 58, another pivotal FBI informant. A paving contractor from Wisconsin and the leader of a paramilitary group, he pleaded guilty in October to federal charges of possessing a high-powered sniper rifle, illegal for a felon.

His list of felonies and other crimes dating to the 1980s include forgery, jumping bail and battery.

Robeson organized a meeting in Ohio, in June 2020 involving members of armed paramilitary groups from a half-dozen states as far away as Virginia and Missouri. He also hosted a field training exercise in Wisconsin in July and helped to survey the governor's cottage. He received nearly $20,000.

In a filing in early January seeking to bar recorded statements by Robeson from the trial, prosecutors called him a "double agent" who had worked "against the interests of the government." He attempted to get evidence destroyed and offered the defendants funds from a charity to buy weapons, among other acts, they said.

His lawyer, Joseph Bugni, declined to comment.

Breyer

from Page 1

on the court because his replacement will be nominated by Biden and almost certainly confirmed by a Senate where Democrats have the slimmest majority. It also will make conservative Justice Clarence Thomas the oldest member of the court. Thomas turns 74 in June.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Biden's nominee "will receive a prompt hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee and will be considered and confirmed by the full United States Senate with all deliberate speed."

Republicans who changed the Senate rules during the Trump era to allow simple majority confirmation of Supreme Court nominees appeared resigned to the outcome.

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a statement: "If all Democrats hang together — which I expect they will — they have the power to replace Justice Breyer in 2022 without one Republican vote in support."

Liberal interest groups expressed relief. They had been clamoring for Breyer's retirement for the past year, concerned about confirmation troubles if Republicans retake the Senate

"Justice Breyer's retirement is coming not a moment too soon, but now we must make sure our party remains united in support of confirming his successor," Demand Justice Executive Director Brian Fallon said.

Among the names being circulated as potential nominees are California Supreme Court Justice Leondra Kruger, U.S. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, prominent civil rights lawyer Sherrilyn Ifill and U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs, whom Biden has nominated to be an appeals court judge. Childs is a favorite of Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., who made a crucial endorsement of Biden just before South Carolina's presidential primary in 2020.


Then-President Bill Clinton and Supreme Court nominee Stephen Breyer leave the White House in 1994, as the president officially introduced Breyer to the nation. Breyer is retiring, giving President Joe Biden an opening he has pledged to fill by naming the first Black woman to the high court. **DOUG MILLS/AP FILE**

Biden has been focused on filling federal judicial nominations with a more diverse group of judges, and the Supreme Court has not been on top of his mind during his first year in office, according to White House aides.

A decision on a nominee is expected to take a few weeks, aides and allies said.

But Biden has expanded his pool of applicants by naming more Black women to the bench.

Often overshadowed by his fellow liberal Ginsburg, Breyer authored two major opinions in support of abortion rights on a court closely divided over the issue, and he laid out his growing discomfort with the death penalty in a series of dissenting opinions in recent years.

In more than 27 years on the court, Breyer has been an active and cheerful questioner during arguments, a frequent public speaker and quick with a joke, often at his own expense. He made a good-natured appearance on a humorous National Public Radio program in 2007, failing to answer obscure questions about pop stars.

He is known for his elaborate, at times far-fetched, hypothetical questions to lawyers during arguments, and he sometimes has had the air of an absent-minded professor. He taught antitrust law at Harvard earlier in his professional career.

He also spent time working for the late Sen. Edward Kennedy when the Massachusetts Democrat was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. That experience, Breyer said, made him a firm believer in compromise.

Still, he could write fierce dissents, as he did in the Bush v. Gore case that effectively decided the 2000 election in favor of Republican George W. Bush. Breyer unsuccessfully urged his colleagues to return the case to the Florida courts so they could create "a constitutionally proper contest" by which to decide the winner.

His time working in the Senate led to his appointment by President Jimmy Carter as a federal appeals court judge in Boston, and he was confirmed with bipartisan support even after Carter's defeat for reelection in 1980. Breyer served for 14 years on the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals before moving up to the Supreme Court.

His 87-9 high-court confirmation was the last with fewer than 10 dissenting votes.

Breyer's opinions were notable because they never contained footnotes. He was warned off such a writing device by Arthur Goldberg, the Supreme Court justice for whom Breyer clerked as a young lawyer.

"It is an important point to make if you believe, as I do, that the major function of an opinion is to explain to the audience of readers why it is that the court has reached that decision," Breyer once said. "It's not to prove that you're right. You can't prove that you're right; there is no such proof."

Breyer and his wife, Joanna, a psychologist and daughter of the late British Conservative leader John Blakenham, have three children — daughters Chloe and Nell and a son, Michael — and six grandchildren.

Maric

from Page 1

have previously spoken of the need to raise research funding further to compete with the country's premier research universities.

At a board meeting in October, Maric estimated that UConn would likely need to generate award dollars in the $500 million range to be considered for membership with the Association of American Universities, an invitation-only group of 66 of the country's top research institutions.

Maric came to UConn in 2010 as a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, and has worked closely with students to help them secure research funding, incubate their projects and eventually secure patents.

Since coming to Connecticut, all three of her children have graduated from UConn.

Maric was born in Yugoslovia and educated at Kyoto University in Japan — as such, she's fluent in four languages: Croation, English, German and Japanese.

A painter, pianist and amateur chef, Maric also designs and sews many of her own clothes.

Maric worked as a program manager for Canada's Institute for Fuel Cell Innovation prior to joining UConn, and is a highly-regarded expert in clean energy innovation.

Her efforts to elevate UConn's reputation as a quality research institution have won her popularity among the trustees. Dan Toscano, board chair, described her Wednesday as a "great voice for the engine of the university."

"Once I got over the knowledge that [Agwunobi] would be leaving, I felt much better when I had the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Maric talking about the path ahead for UConn," Toscano said.

"UConn is incredibly fortunate to have the talented and unflappable Dr. Radenka Maric to steer UConn on an interim basis," Gov. Ned Lamont, who appointed Maric to the Connecticut Innovations Board of directors, said in a statement. "Our Huskies will remain in good hands."

"I am going to depend on the feedback of many of you," Maric told the trustees. "We all care, we want to present excellence, and we want to provide opportunity to all of our students."

With undergraduate students set to return to campus soon, Maric will be tasked with steering the university ahead in what officials hope are the final weeks of the omicron-driven surge of COVID-19.

Maric succeeds Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, who the university announced is leaving in February to take a top management role with insurance giant Humana. Agwunobi had served as CEO of UConn Health since 2014, and was named interim president in July following the resignation of Thomas Katsouleas.

Trustees on Wednesday applauded Agunobi's leadership, particularly as the pandemic strained the university and UConn health.

"His vigilance to keep us moving forward, and his compassion for our constituents in particular, is unparalleled," Toscano said.

The university will soon launch a committee to consider applicants for the permanent position, and hopes to hire someone by next fall.

Maric will begin as interim president on Feb. 1. Agwunobi will stay with the university to oversee the transition through Feb. 20.

Dr. Bruce Liang, dean of the UConn School of Medicine, is expected to be selected as interim CEO of UConn Health.

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WORLD&NATION
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US, NATO stand firm against Russia

Allies reject top Moscow demands in Ukraine crisis

By Vladimir Isachenkov and Matthew Lee
Associated Press



U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan enters the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow. **ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP**

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration and NATO told Russia on Wednesday that there will be no U.S. or NATO concessions on Moscow's main demands to resolve the crisis over Ukraine.

In separate written responses delivered to the Russians, the U.S. and NATO held firm to the alliance's open-door policy for membership, rejected a demand to permanently ban Ukraine from joining, and said allied deployments of troops and military equipment in Eastern Europe are nonnegotiable.

"There is no change, there will be no change," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. Also not up for negotiation will be the U.S. and European response to any Russian invasion of Ukraine, he said, repeating that any such incursion would be met with massive consequences and severe economic costs.

The responses were not unexpected and mirrored what senior U.S. and NATO officials have been saying for weeks.

There was no immediate response from Russia, but Russian officials have warned that Moscow would quickly take "retaliatory measures" if the U.S. and its allies reject its demands.

Seeking possible off-ramps that would allow Russia to withdraw the estimated 100,000 troops it has deployed near Ukraine's border without appearing to have lost a battle of wills, the U.S. response did outline areas in which some of Russia's concerns might be addressed, provided it de-escalates tensions with Ukraine.

Speaking in Washington, Blinken said Russia would not be surprised by the contents of the several page American document that U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan delivered Wednesday to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"All told it sets out a serious diplomatic path forward should Russia choose it," he said. "The document we've delivered includes concerns of the United States and our allies and partners about Russia's actions that undermine security, a principled and pragmatic evaluation of the concerns that Russia has raised, and our own proposals for areas where we may be able to find common ground."

Blinken said he hoped to speak with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov about the response in the coming days. But he stressed the decision about pursuing diplomacy or conflict rests with Russia and more specifically with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We'll see how they respond," he said. "But there's no doubt in my mind that if Russia were to approach this seriously and in a spirit of reciprocity with a determination to enhance collective security for all of us, there are very positive things in this in this document that could be pursued. We can't make that decision for President Putin."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said in Brussels that the alliance had sent a separate reply to Russia with an offer to improve communications, examine ways to avoid military incidents or accidents, and discuss arms control. He also rejected any attempt to halt membership.

"We cannot and will not compromise on the principles on which the security of our alliance, and security in Europe and North America rest," Stoltenberg said. "This is about respecting nations and their right to choose their own path.

"Russia should refrain from coercive force posturing, aggressive rhetoric and malign activities directed against allies and other nations. Russia should also withdraw its forces from Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova where they are deployed without these countries' consent."

While refusing to consider any changes to NATO's open-door policy, its relationship with non-ally Ukraine, or allied troop and military deployments in Eastern Europe, Blinken said the U.S. is open to other ideas to ease Russia's stated concerns.

The U.S. proposals, echoed in the NATO document, include the potential for negotiations over offensive missile placements and military exercises in Eastern Europe as well as broad arms control agreements as long as Russia withdraws its troops from the Ukrainian border and agrees to halt inflammatory rhetoric designed to deepen divisions and discord among the allies and within Ukraine.

Moscow has demanded guarantees that NATO will never admit Ukraine and other former Soviet nations as members and that the alliance will roll back troop deployments in former Soviet bloc nations. Some of these, like the membership pledge, are nonstarters for the U.S. and its allies, creating a seemingly intractable stalemate that many fear can only end in a war.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied it has plans to attack Ukraine, but the U.S. and NATO are worried about Russia massing its troops near Ukraine and conducting a series of sweeping military maneuvers.

Speaking to Russian lawmakers Wednesday before the U.S. and NATO responses were delivered, Lavrov said he and other top officials will advise Putin on the next steps.

"If the West continues its aggressive course, Moscow will take the necessary retaliatory measures," Lavrov said.

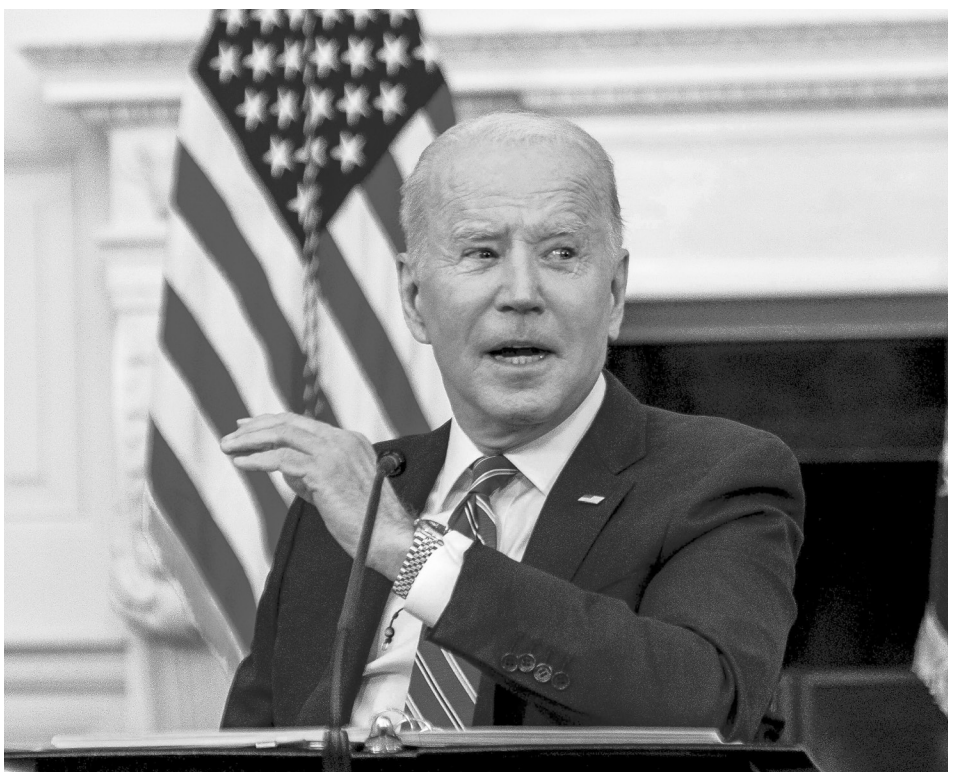
But he indicated Russia wouldn't wait forever.

"We won't allow our proposals to be drowned in endless discussions," he said.

Vacancy giving Biden chance to fulfill pledge

President vowed to pick Black woman for next open seat

By Colleen Long, Zeke Miller and Michael Balsamo
Associated Press



President Joe Biden would make history by choosing a Black woman for the Supreme Court. Liberal Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, is expected to retire in the summer. **ANDREW HARNIK/AP**

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is eyeing at least three judges as potential Supreme Court nominees who would fulfill his campaign pledge to nominate the first Black woman to the nation's highest court, according to aides and allies.

With Justice Stephen Breyer planning to retire, early discussions about a successor are focusing on U.S. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, U.S. District Judge J. Michelle Childs and California Supreme Court Justice Leondra Kruger, according to four people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss White House deliberations.

Brown Jackson and Kruger have long been seen as possible nominees.

Since Biden took office in January 2021, he has installed five Black women on federal appeals courts, with three more nominations pending before the Senate. Another Supreme Court candidate could come from among that group, Biden aides and allies said. Almost all of the recent Supreme Court nominees have been federal appeals judges.

By the end of his first year, Biden had won confirmation of 40 judges, the most since President Ronald Reagan. Of those, 80% are women and 53% are people of color, the White House said.

Brown Jackson, 51, was nominated by President Barack Obama to be a district court judge. Biden elevated her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Early in her career, she was also a law clerk for Breyer.

Childs, a federal judge in South Carolina, has been nominated but not yet confirmed to serve on the same circuit court. She is a favorite among some high-profile lawmakers, including Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C.

Kruger, a graduate of Harvard and Yale's law school, was a Supreme Court clerk and has argued a dozen cases before the justices as a lawyer for the federal government.

When Biden was running for the White House, he said that if he had the chance to nominate someone to the court, he would make history by choosing a Black woman.

"As president, I'd be honored to appoint the first African American woman. Because it should look like the country. It's long past time," Biden said in February 2020 shortly before South Carolina's presidential primary.

The White House has reiterated Biden's campaign pledge since his election.

Adding a Black woman to the court would mean a series of firsts — four female justices and two Black justices serving at the same time on the nine-member court. Justice Clarence Thomas is the court's only Black justice and just the second ever, after Thurgood Marshall.

Biden now has the chance to show Black voters increasingly frustrated with a president they helped to elect that he is serious about their concerns, particularly after he has been unable to push through voting rights legislation.

At the same time, Breyer's replacement by another liberal justice would not change the ideological makeup of the court. Conservatives outnumber liberals by 6-3, and former President Donald Trump's three nominees made an already conservative court even more conservative.

With the larger push to diversify the judiciary — Trump largely appointed white men during his time in office — Biden's team has consulted with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Black caucus members, Clyburn and influential Democratic lawyers.

Even with a narrowed field and the court's majority not to be altered, there's no guarantee a nominee will sail through the Senate.

Republicans remain upset about Justice Brett Kavanaugh's contentious 2018 hearing. Still, Democrats have the 50 votes plus a tiebreaker in Vice President Kamala Harris that they need to confirm a nominee.

Biden is aware of the challenges that come with a confirmation. As a senator, he served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, overseeing six Supreme Court confirmation hearings from 1987 to 1995, including Breyer's.

Two other Black women Biden appointed to federal appeals courts are also seen as contenders: Holly Thomas, a civil rights lawyer he named to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit and Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, a former public defender he named to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

Biden could also choose someone from outside the judiciary. One contender would be Sherrilyn Ifill, head of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Ifill, 59, has headed the fund since 2013 and has announced she is stepping down in the spring.

Democrats eye swift confirmation of Biden's Supreme Court selection

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats plan to move swiftly to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, using the rapid 2020 confirmation of Justice Amy Coney Barrett as a new standard.

Barrett was confirmed exactly a month after then-President Donald Trump nominated her to replace the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg — and just five weeks after Ginsburg's death in September of that year. Democrats sharply criticized that timeline then, arguing that most confirmations had taken much longer and that Republicans were trying to jam the nomination through in case Trump lost reelection.

But now that they hold the presidency and the Senate, Democrats navigating the complicated politics of a 50-50 chamber are eyeing a similarly swift schedule, even if Breyer does not officially step down until the summer.



Schumer

In statements, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Dick Durbin, D-Ill., made clear that they would move quickly.

Schumer said the nominee will "be considered and confirmed by the full United States Senate with all deliberate speed."

Durbin said he looks forward to moving the nomination "expeditiously" through the committee.

Democrats could hold committee hearings and a full vote in the Senate before Breyer steps down. The Senate would just refrain from sending the president the paperwork on the final confirmation vote until Breyer has retired.

At the same time, Democrats will be hoping for a handful of Republican votes. Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, for example, all voted last year to confirm U.S. Circuit Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, one of Biden's possible nominees.

Graham indicated in a statement Wednesday that he's unlikely to support Biden's pick.

"If all Democrats hang together — which I expect they will — they have the power to replace Justice Breyer in 2022 without one Republican vote in support," Graham said. "Elections have consequences, and that is most evident when it comes to fulfilling vacancies on the Supreme Court."

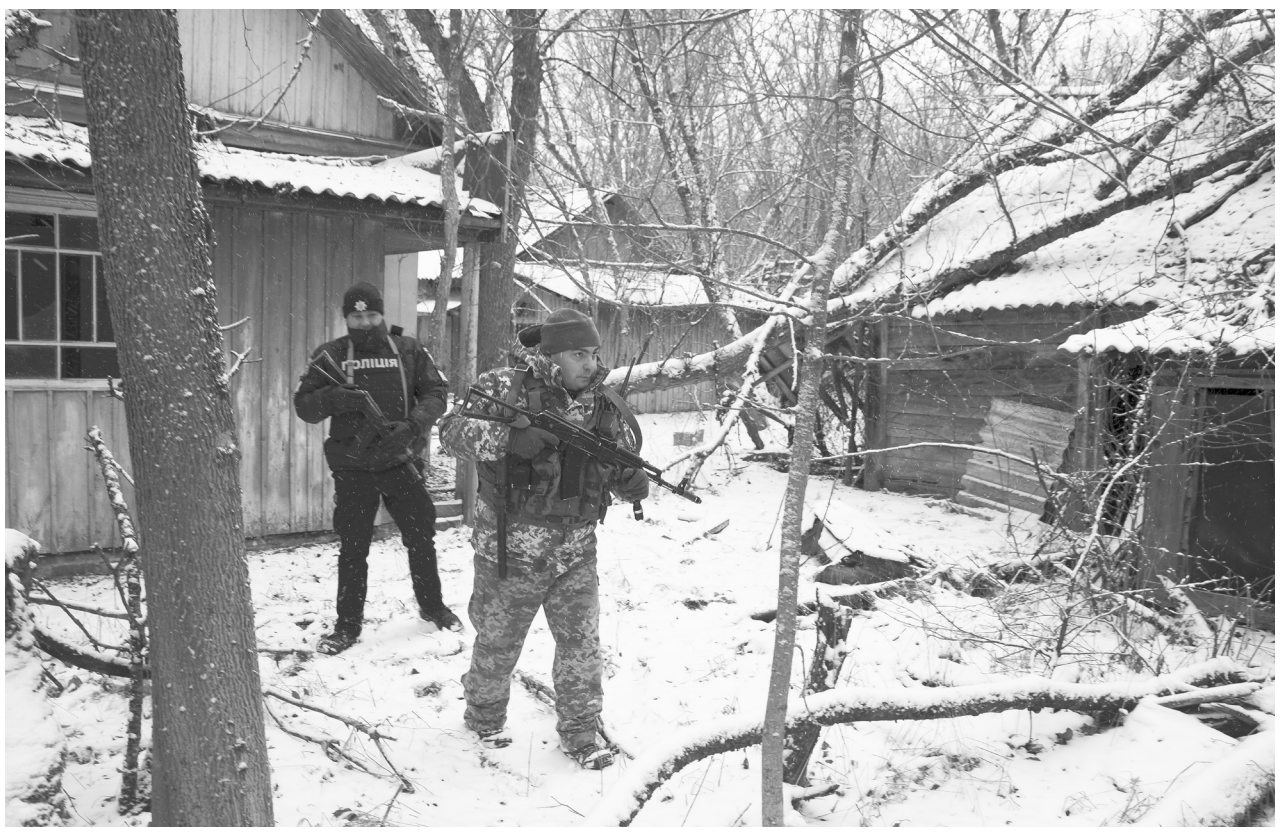
It will be the first time Democrats have had a Senate majority and the opportunity to fill a Supreme Court vacancy since Justice Elana Kagan was confirmed in 2010.

WORLD & NATION

Defend Chernobyl in an invasion?

Ukraine does have strategy for highly radioactive site

By Andrew E. Kramer
The New York Times



A Ukrainian border guard on patrol with Ukrainian police in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHERNOBYL, Ukraine — Ukrainian soldiers, Kalashnikov rifles slung over their shoulders, patrolled through a silent, snowy forest, passing homes so long abandoned that vines twirl through the broken windows.

The fields are fallow, the cities deserted and the entire Chernobyl zone in northern Ukraine is still so radioactive it would seem the last place on Earth anybody would want to conquer.

But while most of the attention around a potential invasion by Russia is focused in the east, the shortest route from Russia to Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, is from the north. And it passes through the isolated zone around the Chernobyl power plant, where the 1986 meltdown of a reactor caused the worst nuclear disaster in history.

That makes Chernobyl an area that Ukraine thinks it needs to defend, forcing its military to deploy security forces into still radioactive forest, where they carry both weapons and equipment to detect radiation exposure.

"It doesn't matter if it is contaminated or nobody lives here," said Lt. Col. Yuri Shakhraichuk of the Ukrainian border guard service. "It is our territory, our country, and we must defend it."

The Ukrainian forces in the area, known as the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, would not be sufficient to rebuff an invasion, if one came; they are there mostly to detect warning signs. "We collect information about the situation along the border" and convey it to Ukraine's intelligence agencies, Shakhraichuk said.

The concept of the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone when Soviet authorities established it three decades ago was to limit, through isolation, the lethality of the accident at the nuclear plant. Radioactive particles left in the soil or trapped under the containment structure of the destroyed reactor while they slowly decay would pose little risk to soldiers, as long as those soldiers did not linger in highly irradiated areas. But the land must be abandoned, in some places for hundreds of years.

Two months ago, the government deployed additional forces into the area, because of increased tensions with Russia and Belarus, a Kremlin ally whose border is 5 miles from the stricken reactor and where Russia has recently moved troops.

"How can this be?" said Ivan Kovalchuk, a Ukrainian firefighter who helped extinguish the fire at the plant in the first days after the accident, risking his life alongside Russians and people from around the former Soviet Union. He said he was outraged that Russia could potentially menace the zone militarily.

"We liquidated the accident together," Kovalchuk said. "For them to do this to us now just makes me feel sorry for people" in Ukraine, he said.

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant's reactor No. 4 exploded and burned during a test on April 26, 1986, releasing about 400 times more radiation than the bombing at Hiroshima. Thirty people died in the immediate aftermath of the accident, most from radiation exposure; studies of longer-term health effects have been mostly inconclusive but suggest that there could eventually be thousands of deaths from cancer.

At the time of the accident, Ukraine was a Soviet republic, and initially, the Soviet authorities tried to cover up the disaster. To avoid raising suspicions, they went ahead a few days later with May Day parades in Ukraine, marching schoolchildren through swirling radioactive dust.

That attitude helped stir anti-Soviet sentiment throughout Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, the republics most affected, and the accident is now seen as one cause of the collapse of the Soviet Union five years later.

The Chernobyl zone covers about 1,000 square miles straddling the shortest direct route from the Belarusian border to Kyiv. While it is not necessarily the most likely invasion route from the north, because it is swampy and densely forested, Ukraine has not ruled it out.

Before last fall, the 700 miles of border between Ukraine and Belarus were almost unguarded, particularly in the irradiated areas. About 90 miles of the border separates the Ukrainian zone from a similarly isolated and irradiated area in Belarus, called the Polesie State Radioecological Reserve.

That changed in November amid a migrant crisis in Belarus and a troop buildup in Russia.

The two developments were ominous in combination. Moscow began massing troops in a way that suggested plans for an incursion into Ukraine via Belarus. Kyiv also feared Belarus might create a provocation such as herding migrants toward the Ukrainian border — as it did with Poland — and provide the spark for war.

Ukraine responded by deploying 7,500 additional guards to the Belarusian border. Shakhraichuk said he could not disclose how many went specifically to Chernobyl. But fears about an incursion from Belarus have only grown as Russia directs troops and equipment there ahead of planned joint exercises with Belarus in February.

The risk of a war further spreading radiation seems minimal. But one object in the zone is particularly vulnerable: a new, $1.7 billion stainless steel arch over the destroyed reactor, paid for mostly by the United States and about 30 other countries. It was completed in 2016 to prevent the spread of highly radioactive dust.

The town of Chernobyl is still partially occupied by workers who live there during rotations. They maintain the containment structure over the damaged reactor, roads and other infrastructure.

Before the Russian buildup, the main security concern in Chernobyl was illegal mushroom picking and collection of scrap metal, activities that risk spreading radiation.

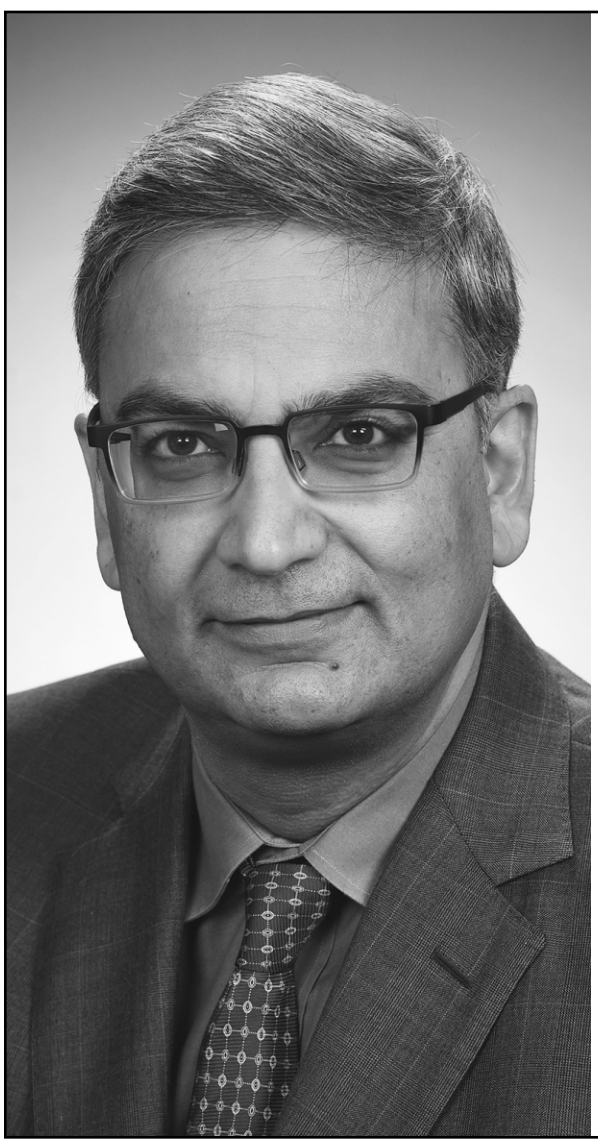
Most of the time, soldiers on patrol face little risk from radiation. But longer-lived particles remain, creating invisible, lethally dangerous hot spots in the forest. Some emit levels of radiation thousands of times higher than normal. The soldiers have marked routes to avoid these places, which were long ago mapped by scientists.

Still, while patrolling in the zone, the soldiers must carry devices on a lanyard around their necks that continuously monitor exposure; under the protocols for patrolling in the zone, if a soldier stumbles into a highly irradiated patch, he is taken off duty to avoid further exposure.

So far, none of the border guards deployed into the zone in November have been exposed to high doses, according to Shakhraichuk.

"There are very dangerous places to avoid," said Maj. Aleksei Vegera, who serves with the Chernobyl police force. Members of that force, accustomed to working in the area, accompany border guards on patrols.

"We do try to be careful," he said. "But, what can I say, I'm used to it."



Trinity Health Of New England Medical Group Welcomes Ashish Upadhyay, M.D.

Orthopedic Spine Surgeon

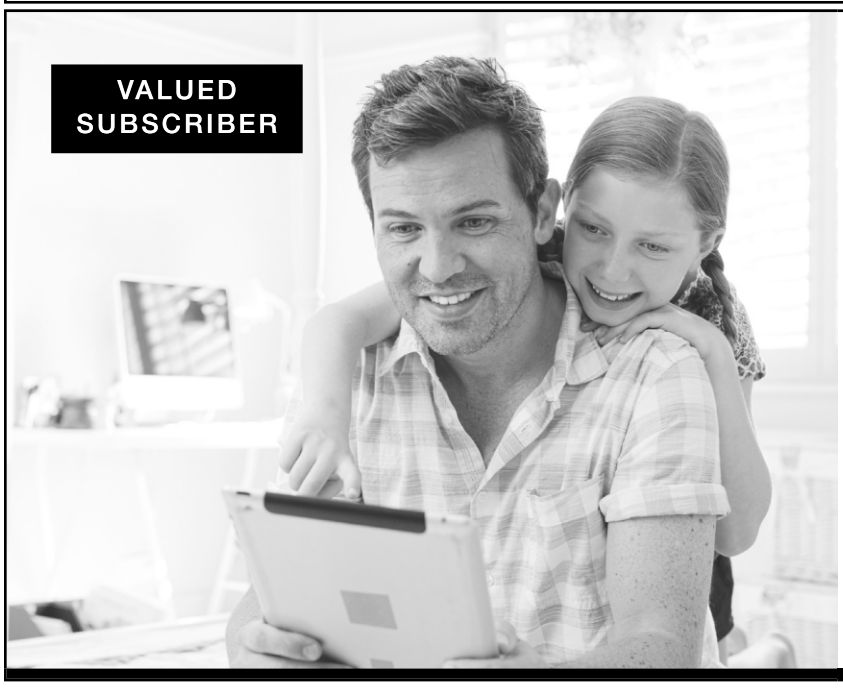
Ashish Upadhyay M.D., who is board certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, has vast experience in complex spine surgery with a special interest in minimally invasive spine surgery. After receiving his medical degree from the University of Delhi in India, Dr. Upadhyay trained extensively at top institutions in multiple countries, including Oxford University Hospital and King's College Hospital in London and the Leatherman Spine Center in Louisville, Kentucky.

Dr. Upadhyay has been practicing in Bristol area for the last 6 years. Thanks to his expertise, his patients experience quicker discharge rates and very low rates of complications. He has a zero 30-day readmission rate over the last five years, and has a wonderful reputation in the community and with referring providers.

Dr. Upadhyay will be accepting new patients in Farmington. To make an appointment or for more information please call 860-284-9544 or visit TrinityHealthOfNE.org.

Trinity Health Of New England | Medical Group

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TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

Shining light on 'Righteous Rescuers'

Campaign focuses on those who saved Jews in Holocaust

By Kirsten Grieshaber
Associated Press



Now 93, Andrzej Sitkowski was 15 when he and his mother hid a Jewish girl from the Nazis at their home in Poland during World War II. **ALEXANDRA BEIER/AP**

DURACH, Germany — Andrzej Sitkowski was 15 years old when his mother told him that she had been asked by a neighbor to hide a little Jewish girl from the Nazis at their home.

"It was a short conversation, and then, yes, we decided to take in Hadassah and she was brought over to our house in 1943," Sitkowski said, looking back at those difficult years during World War II when he lived with his widowed mother, Helena, and younger sister, Magda, on the outskirts of the Polish capital of Warsaw under German occupation.

"Fear was our daily dish during those years anyway," Sitkowski said at his home in the Bavarian village of Durach, where he settled 10 years ago with his German wife.

Almost eight decades after Hadassah Kosak's rescue, the 93-year-old Polish man is still regularly in touch with Kosak, now 84, who after the war immigrated via Israel to the United States where she became a professor of history in New York.

For their efforts to help save the lives of Kosak, her sister Marion and their mother, Bronislawa, who later came to stay with the Sitkowskis, Andrzej and his mother were given Israel's highest honor in 1995. They were named "Righteous Among the Nations" — a title bestowed on non-Jews who took great risks to save Jews during the Holocaust by Yad Vashem, the country's official Holocaust remembrance organization.

This year, as the world commemorates the 77th anniversary of the liberation of the German Nazi Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp on Jan. 27, 1945, Yad Vashem and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany have teamed up to highlight the stories of "Righteous Rescuers" like the Sitkowskis who risked everything.

As part of a social media campaign called #Don'tBeABystander, the Claims Conference and Yad Vashem are releasing several videos and launching a website about people who saved Jews during the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews were murdered across Europe.

"One of the amazing thing about the rescuers is that not only did they rescue the specific person who was hidden, but all of their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren — an entire family tree," said Greg Schneider, the executive vice president of the Claims Conference.

Over the past 60 years Yad Vashem has recognized about 28,000 individuals from some 50 countries as "Righteous Rescuers." The organization still receives hundreds of applications each year to honor others, mostly posthumously. Of all the rescuers still alive today, most helped their parents as children or teenagers.

"We believe about 200 of them are still alive and most of them are living in Europe," said Dani Dayan, the chairman of Yad Vashem. "As antisemitism is growing again on all five continents, we need to stress again the moral stature of these persons and their actions."

In Poland, home to Europe's largest Jewish community before the Holocaust, the Nazi occupiers punished those who helped Jews by executing not only the helpers, but their entire families.

Still, when you ask Sitkowski about why he and his mother decided to help Jews despite the huge personal risks, he says it simply was their duty as human beings.

"When my mother told me about the request ... there were no long deliberations. The approval was somehow obvious," Sitkowski said.

Sitting in his living room overlooking the snowy foothills of the Alps, he smiles when he thinks of Hadassah.

"She was a beautiful little girl, very smart, with sort of darkish hair and black eyes — I grew very fond of her."

Even today, there's still a strong bond between them. In the past, they would visit each other and nowadays they talk on the phone and exchange letters.

In their conversations, their memories often wander back to those months of hiding when the Sitkowskis shared their meager food rations with Hadassah, when Andrzej taught 5-year-old Hadassah how to read and write, and when they made their neighbors and acquaintances believe a fabricated story in which Hadassah was not a Jew, but a Christian Polish girl whose mother had been taken to Germany as a forced laborer.

In reality, Hadassah's mother was hiding as a maid with another family and her sister Marion was hiding at a Catholic convent. But when those hiding places were no longer safe, the two joined Hadassah at the Sitkowskis.

In September 1944, however, the Nazis first burned down the Sitkowski home and many other houses on their street and then later expelled all people who had lived there. So they needed to escape again and eventually the Sitkowskis and Kosaks had to split up and survived the last months of the war in different places across Poland until the Soviet Army liberated Poland from the Nazis in January 1945.

While Hadassah Kosak first moved to Israel and later to the United States, her mother and sister ended up in Britain, where Marion married Ralph Miliband and where their two sons Ed and David, two well-known politicians with the British Labor Party, were born.

The decision of Andrzej and his mother to offer a shelter "was a true act of humanity," Hadassah Kosak said. "Thanks to their bravery, and at a great risk to themselves, we survived the Nazi horrors."

NEWS BRIEFING

DOJ says Texas man sold gun that was used in synagogue standoff

From news services

DALLAS — A Texas man has been charged with a federal gun crime after authorities say he sold a gun to a man who held four hostages inside a Texas synagogue this month before being fatally shot by the FBI, the Justice Department said Wednesday.

Henry "Michael" Williams, 32, was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm after authorities say he sold the weapon that Malik Faisal Akram used when he entered Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, on Jan. 15 and held the synagogue's rabbi and three others hostage for hours.

The attorney listed for Williams in court records did not immediately respond Wednesday to a phone message and email seeking comment.

Akram, a 44-year-old British citizen, held hostages in the Dallas-area suburb while demanding the release of a federal prisoner. The standoff ended after more than 10 hours when the temple's rabbi threw a chair at Akram and fled with the other two remaining hostages just as an FBI tactical team was moving in. None of the hostages were injured.

Prosecutors say Williams sold Akram a semi-automatic pistol Jan. 13. The pistol was recovered from the scene.

Akram paid $150 for the gun, according to charging documents. The documents state Williams was convicted in 2005 of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and attempted possession of a controlled substance in 2013.

Williams allegedly acknowledged to FBI agents that he was aware he was not allowed to have a firearm and knew selling the gun to Akram was illegal.

He initially told investigators one day after Akram was killed that he recalled meeting a man with a British accent but didn't remember his name. During a separate interview the following week, authorities said, Williams was shown a photo of Akram and this time confirmed that he sold Akram the weapon in South Dallas.

Williams told investigators that Akram told him he intended to use the gun to intimidate someone who owed an outstanding debt, according to authorities.

Dallas police arrested Williams on an outstanding warrant Monday, and he told federal investigators that he sold the gun to Akram after being read his rights, according to charging documents.



National pride: Artists perform during India's Republic Day on Wednesday at the Wagah border post separating India and Pakistan. Republic Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the country's constitution in 1950, three years after winning independence from British colonial rule. Celebrations in Delhi were curtailed amid the pandemic. **NARINDER NANU/GETTY-AFP**

Gun liability: A California city voted Tuesday night to require gun owners to carry liability insurance in what's believed to be the first measure of its kind in the United States.

The San Jose City Council overwhelmingly approved the measure despite opposition from gun owners who said it would violate their Second Amendment rights.

Having liability insurance would encourage people in the 55,000 households in San Jose who legally own at least one registered gun to have gun safes, install trigger locks and take gun safety classes, Mayor Sam Liccardo said.

The liability insurance would cover losses or damages resulting from any accidental use of the firearm, including death, injury, or property damage, according to the ordinance. If a gun is stolen or lost, the owner of the firearm would be considered liable until the theft or loss is reported to authorities.

However, gun owners who don't have insurance won't lose their guns or face any criminal charges, the mayor said.

Later Tuesday, a gun rights group and a gun owner filed a lawsuit over the ordinance.

Nursing home info: Medicare said Wednesday it is posting details on staff turnover and weekend nurse coverage on its "Care Compare" website, where families can research a facility.

The move comes as COVID-19 cases and deaths at nursing homes have risen again, despite extensive efforts to vaccinate residents and staff.

To find the new information, consumers must go to the Care Compare website, select a nursing home, and then click on "View Staffing Information." On that page, they'll scroll down the list to find nurse staffing details on the weekends, and below that, information on turnover for nurses and administrators.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said it has researched the links between staff turnover and quality of care. Initial results suggest that as staff turnover decreases, the overall quality rating for a facility increases.

Nurse turnover is defined as the percentage of nursing staff that stopped working at a facility over a 12-month period.

LGBTQ law: France has a new law that bans so-called conversion therapies and authorizes jail time and fines for practitioners who use the scientifically discredited practice to attempt to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ people.

The National Assembly approved the new law in a 142-0 vote Tuesday.

The legislation includes criminal penalties for people convicted of trying to "convert" LGBTQ people to heterosexuality or traditional gender expectations.

The law also opens the possibility for campaigners to file civil suits on behalf of victims, an advance hailed in parliament as a breakthrough for people who hesitate or are unable to alert police themselves.

Mideast battle flares up: Forces of Yemen's internationally recognized government and their Emirati-backed allies swept through a strategic province, forcing Houthi rebels out of its second largest district, officials said Wednesday.

Government forces and the Giants Brigades of the UAE retook the district of Harib and its center south of Marib after nearly two weeks of fighting, pushing their way to the nearby district of Juba, said Brig. Abdou Megali, a military spokesman.

The Houthis had taken the two districts last year as part of their offensive on Marib.

Fighting also raged between government forces and the Houthis elsewhere, including in the provinces of Jawf and Taiz, Megali added.

Later on Wednesday, a ballistic missile hit a residential neighborhood in Marib, killing at least five civilians including a woman, said Ali al-Ghulisi, the provincial governor's press secretary.

Federal prosecutors: President Joe Biden has nominated six lawyers to run U.S. attorney's offices across the country, his latest picks for the top law enforcement positions.

The nominees, who were announced Wednesday, would run the federal prosecutors' offices in Alaska, Connecticut, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Utah.

They would include the first woman to serve as U.S. attorney in Utah and the first Black woman to serve as U.S. attorney in Connecticut.

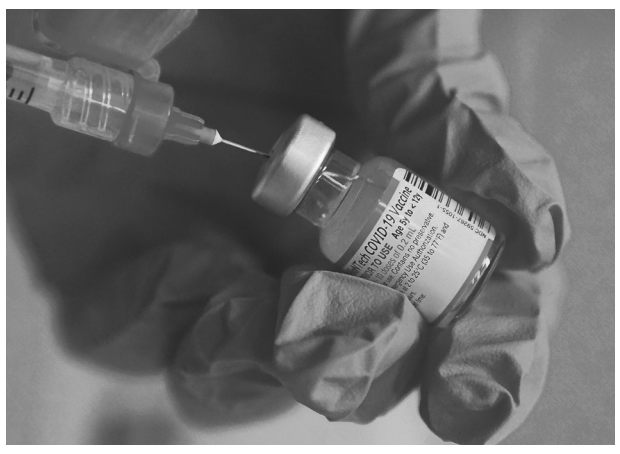
The Justice Department's 93 U.S. attorneys are responsible for federal criminal prosecutions in their respective districts.

Biden has now nominated 43 people to serve as U.S. attorneys..

WORLD & NATION

Vaccine deadline looms for 1st wave of health workers

By David A. Lieb and Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press



Health care workers in 25 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories face a vaccine deadline Thursday. **AP 2021**

Health care workers in half the states face a Thursday deadline to get their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine under a Biden administration mandate that will be rolled out across the rest of the country in the coming weeks.

While the requirement is welcomed by some, others fear it will worsen already serious staff shortages if employees quit rather than comply.

And in some Republican-led states that have taken a stand against vaccine mandates, hospitals and nursing homes could find themselves caught between conflicting state and federal demands.

"We would like to see staff vaccinated. We think that it's the safest option for residents, which is our biggest concern," said Marjorie Moore, executive director of VOYCE, a St. Louis County, Missouri, nonprofit that works on behalf of nursing home residents. "But not having staff is also a really big concern, because the neglect that happens as a result of that is severe and very scary."

The mandate affects a wide swath of the health care industry, covering doctors, nurses, technicians, aides and even volunteers at hospitals, nursing homes, home-health agencies and other providers that participate in the federal Medicare or Medicaid programs.

Nationwide, about 81% of nursing home staff members already were fully vaccinated as of earlier this month, ranging from a high of 98% in Rhode Island to a low of 67% in Missouri, according to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The data is unclear about the vaccination levels in hospitals and other health care sites.

The mandate will cover 10.4 million health care workers at 76,000 facilities.

It is taking effect first in jurisdictions that didn't challenge the requirement in court.

Those include some of the biggest states, with some of the largest populations of senior citizens, among them: California, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania.

"There absolutely have been employee resignations because of vaccination requirements," said Catherine Barbieri, a Philadelphia attorney who represents health care providers. But "I think it's relatively small."

In Florida, medical centers find themselves caught between dueling federal and state vaccination policies. They could lose federal funding for not adhering to the Biden administration mandate, but could get hit with fines for running afoul of state law.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican who has waged a legal campaign against coronavirus mandates, last year signed legislation that forces businesses with vaccine requirements to let workers opt out for medical reasons, religious beliefs, immunity from a previous infection, regular testing or an agreement to wear protective gear. Businesses that fail to comply can be fined $10,000 to $50,000 per violation.

Asked if the state would pursue fines against hospitals that enforce the federal mandate, a spokeswoman for the Florida attorney general said all employee complaints "will be thoroughly reviewed by our office."

Some states already have their own vaccine requirements for health care workers.

In California, for example, they have been required to be fully vaccinated since Sept. 30 and must get a booster by Feb. 1.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services ultimately could cut off funding to places that fail to comply with the mandate. But officials said the agency plans to begin enforcement with encouragement rather than a heavy hand.

The states affected Thursday are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. The District of Columbia and U.S. territories also are affected.



Syrian Democratic Force members on patrol Wednesday outside Gweiran prison in Hassakeh, Syria. The US-backed group regained control of the facility from IS militants. **GETTY-AFP**

US-backed forces recapture Syrian prison after IS attack

By Sarah El Deeb
Associated Press

BEIRUT — U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces said they wrestled control of the last section of a prison seized by Islamic State militants and freed a number of child detainees they had used as human shields. That ended a deadly, weeklong assault by the extremists on one of the largest detention facilities in Syria.

The attack was the biggest by IS since the fall of the group's "caliphate" in 2019 and came as militants staged deadly attacks in Syria and Iraq that stoked fears of a comeback.

In the week of clashes, dozens from both sides have been killed, the U.S.-led coalition has carried out nearly a dozen airstrikes and thousands of civilians living nearby have been displaced.

"The whole prison is now under control," said Farhad Shami, a spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces. "The operation today was on the cells of the child detainees. We were able to surround a number of terrorists who had taken them as shields and we killed them."

Shami said the force was then able to enter the cells and the remaining militants surrendered. A large number of children were freed, he said, but had no specific number.

Shami said about 3,000 inmates have surrendered since the operation closing in on the northern wing began two days ago. He said the preliminary death toll among his force is estimated at 35.

After breaking into the prison late Jan. 20, IS militants were joined by others rioting inside the facility. Around 200 armed militants were believed to be holed up in the northern wing at one end of the prison complex, also holding hostages from among the prison staff.

The prison complex, known as Gweiran prison, houses more than 3,000 inmates, including around 600 minors.

Children have reportedly been killed and wounded in clashes, rights and aid groups say.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 124 IS militants, 50 fighters with the Kurdish-led forces and seven civilians were killed in the weeklong attack that extended into residential areas.

Eleven Iraqi soldiers were killed in their sleep after gunmen attacked an army barracks in Diyala province last Friday. It was the deadliest attack in months to target Iraq's military and was blamed on IS, which appeared to be exploiting a security vacuum in Iraq's north.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said earlier Wednesday that it had freed 23 of its servicemen held hostage by IS militants.

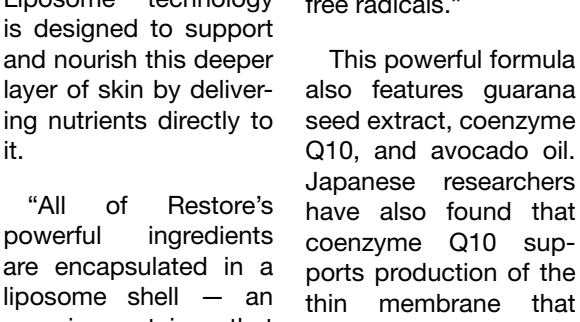
The SDF, backed by U.S.-led coalition Bradley Fighting Vehicles and air support, had been closing in on the prison wing controlled by the militants.

"The makeshift prisons throughout Syria are a breeding ground for Daesh's failed ideology," said Maj. Gen. John Brennan, commander of the anti-IS coalition, referring to IS by its Arabic acronym. "We must thoroughly investigate the circumstances that allowed this attack to happen," he added.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT PAID ADVERTISEMENT

BETTER THAN INJECTIONS: Takes 10 Years Off Your Face in Just 10 Minutes

Women are raving about the life-changing effects of this powerful formula.



Revolutionary new derma-filler cream takes 10 years off your face in just 10 minutes

There's no denying that people — mostly women — are on a mission to discover the best way to eliminate fine lines and wrinkles permanently. The $14 billion dollars spent on aesthetic procedures in 2016 alone is a clear indication of that fact.

But now science appears to be offering a simpler solution. It's a special delivery technology adapted for skincare that gets superior results.

Known as advanced liposome technology, this powerful distribution system ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most, providing your skin with maximum anti-aging benefits.

New Age-Defying 'Dermal Filler' Cream in High Demand

Al Sears, MD, of Palm Beach, Florida, recently released an anti-aging cream that adapts this breakthrough medical technology into the realm of skincare, and he's struggling to keep up with consumer demand.

Dr. Sears is South Florida's leading anti-aging pioneer. He has authored over 500 reports, scientific papers, and books on anti-aging. A frequent lecturer at global anti-aging conferences, Dr. Sears spoke at the WPBF 25 Health & Wellness Festival featuring Dr. Oz, along with special guest, Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people were in attendance as Dr. Sears discussed his latest anti-aging breakthroughs.

This powerful cream, known as Restore, keeps selling out faster than it's produced — and people are raving about the effect it's having on their skin.

"Within a few minutes of applying the cream, it visibly plumps out the under-eye area and my cheeks as well as those annoying lines that deepen as we age between the nose and lips. It also felt like it was tightening and smoothing my skin at the same time. I definitely feel I look younger whenever I use it," said Amy B., of Montville, New Jersey.

"The lines around my mouth and eyes are filled in and my skin is tightened. I love having younger-looking skin, so I will continue using Restore" raves Cathy C., of Florida.

"Advanced liposome technology ensures that vital nutrients are delivered exactly where your skin needs them the most."

The best part is that this cream has no adverse side effects, doesn't require a doctor's visit or prescription, and is 100% natural.

Powerful Delivery System Ensures Nutrients Penetrate Deep into Your Skin

The dermis is the underlying layer of skin that supplies nourishment and oxygen, and removes waste. In other words, it's responsible for keeping your outer layer of skin healthy. Liposome technology is designed to support and nourish this deeper layer of skin by delivering nutrients directly to it.

"All of Restore's powerful ingredients are encapsulated in a liposome shell — an organic container that carries the beautifying agents deep into the skin cells," explained Dr. Sears.

"Restore's liposome shell is composed of phosphatidylcholine or PC for short. While cell membranes repel water, they absorb PC because they're actually made of it. As a result, Restore is delivered deep into the cell for maximum firming and volume."

When you apply liposome cream to your face, the liposomes in the skin cream work their way inside your skin, fuse with the skin cell membranes and then release their contents directly to the cells. Regular skin creams don't have this capability.

A Formula Designed to Take 10 Years off Your Face in Just 10 Minutes

Once it's penetrated the deeper layer of skin, Restore releases a unique blend of botanicals, vitamins and essential oils that reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, gives skin a more even tone, and moisturizes the interior layers of your dermal cells, firming and plumping your skin.

Restore's first skin-enhancing agent is Madonna lily leaf stem cell extract. It helps produce an even-toned complexion. In a clinical study reported in the Journal of Cosmetic Dermatology, participants treated with this extract for 28 days showed improvements in skin luminance and tone around the eyes.

Restore is also loaded with vitamin C, which British researchers have found reduces both wrinkles and dryness. "In Restore we use magnesium ascorbyl phosphate, a more stable form of vitamin C that doesn't break down in liquid as does ordinary C," explains Dr. Sears. "That means the antioxidant molecules stay intact within your skin cells where they can prevent damage from dangerous free radicals."

This powerful formula also features guarana seed extract, coenzyme Q10, and avocado oil. Japanese researchers have also found that coenzyme Q10 supports production of the thin membrane that separates layers of your skin, and French studies have shown that avocado oil improves skin cell metabolism and enhances skin thickness.

Where To Get Restore

Right now the only way to get this powerful age-defying delivery technology is through Dr. Sears.

To get life-changing results like Amy and Cathy, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-745-1722** within the next 48 hours. "We simply don't have enough supply to get Restore shipped directly to stores," said Dr. Sears. "The hotline allows us to ship the product directly to the customer – the one who really wants it."

Dr. Sears feels so strongly about this product, that he offers a 100% money-back guarantee on every order. "Just send back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I'll send you your money back," said Dr. Sears.

The hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number will be shut down to allow them to restock.

Call **1-800-745-1722** to secure your limited supply of Restore. If you were not able to get through last week due to extremely high call volume, please try again! You don't need a prescription, and those who call in the first 24 hours qualify for a significant discount. To take advantage of this great offer use Promo Code **NP0122RS119** when you call in.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. NO INDIVIDUAL RESULT SHOULD BE SEEN AS TYPICAL.

BUSINESS

Fed signals plan to hike rates as early as March

Central bank's action seen as way to cool inflation amid jittery stock market

By Christopher Rugaber
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve signaled Wednesday that it plans to begin raising its benchmark interest rate as soon as March, a key step in reversing its pandemic-era low-rate policies that have fueled hiring and growth but also escalated inflation.

With high inflation squeezing consumers and businesses and unemployment falling steadily, the Fed also said it would phase out its monthly bond purchases, which have been intended to lower longer-term rates, in March.

In a statement issued after its latest policy meeting, the Fed it "expects it will soon be appropriate" to raise rates.

Though the statement didn't specifically mention March, half the Fed's policymakers have expressed a willingness to raise rates by then, including some members who have long favored low rates to support hiring.

Speaking at a news conference, Chair Jerome Powell expressed his view, as he has before, that controlling inflation is vital to a strong job market.

"We believe that the best thing we can do to support continued labor market gains," Powell said, "is to promote a long expansion, and that will require price stability."

The Fed on Wednesday also set out principles it will follow once it decides to reduce its nearly $9 trillion in bond holdings, a sum that has more than doubled since the pandemic struck nearly two years ago.

Some analysts expect the Fed to begin doing so as soon as July, a move that would contribute to tighter credit.

The central bank's actions are sure to make a wide range of borrowing — from mortgages and credit cards to auto loans and corporate credit — costlier over time. Those higher borrowing costs, in turn, could slow consumer spending and hiring.

The gravest risk is that the Fed's abandonment of low rates could trigger another recession.

The central bank's latest policy statement follows dizzying gyrations in the stock market as investors have been gripped by fear and uncertainty over just how fast and far the Fed will go to reverse its low-rate policies, which have nurtured the economy and the markets for years.

The broad S&P 500 index fell nearly 10% this month.

Last week, President Joe Biden said it was "appropriate" for Powell to adjust the Fed's policies. And congressional Republicans have endorsed Powell's plans to raise rates, providing the Fed with rare bipartisan support for tightening credit.

The Fed's bond purchases have been intended to reduce longer-term interest rates to spur borrowing and spending.

Earlier this month, minutes of the Fed's December meeting revealed that the central bank was considering reducing its bond holdings by not replacing bonds that mature — a more aggressive step than merely ending its purchases.

By not replacing some of its bond holdings, the Fed in effect reduces demand for Treasuries. This raises their yields and makes borrowing more expensive.



Brunch is served Jan. 15 at a Dubai hotel. Until this year, brunches in Dubai were held on Fridays, the start of the weekend. **KAMRAN JEBREILI/AP**

Farewell to 'Friday brunch'

Facilities scramble as Dubai's beloved weekly parties end following weekend upheaval

By Isabel Debre
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Friday will never be the same again.

For those with means in Dubai, the former first day of the weekend carried a gluttonous party tradition — an hourslong affair with infinite supply of seafood, pizza, dessert and Veuve Clicquot Champagne set to pulsing music known simply in this city-state as "Friday brunch."

But starting this year, the United Arab Emirates shifted its weekend from Friday and Saturday to Saturday and Sunday — a move to align with global markets and Western schedules.

Now, Emirati government employees work a half day with time for worship and family gatherings on Islam's holy day. Most of the nation's expatriate-dominated private sector, however, works the full day.

That has thrown Friday brunch — a key revenue source for COVID-19-battered restaurants — into disarray.

"The traditional 12 p.m. Friday brunch is extinct," said Adrian John, who along with his, wife Lucy Melts, started a popular Dubai brunch review website called Mr. and Mrs. Brunch.

Friday brunch in Dubai involves far more than the midday meals enjoyed in other major cities. For those not rendered immobile after four hours of feasting, there's the post-brunch brunch, evening brunch with more booze and midnight party brunch.

Luxury hotels and restaurants each have their own brunch style. For example, one steakhouse offers a James Bond theme with a background of spy movie music.

The fixed prices may seem expensive — all-you-can-drink Champagne packages cost over $200 — but cheaper options exist. Devotees insist that unlimited booze remains a deal in a city where every drink poured in a bar is subject to a 30% municipality tax.

Locked in a culinary arms race to attract Dubai's big spenders, brunch destinations are now keen to keep the extravaganza alive despite the weekend upheaval.

The industry has sought to remake itself with a new tagline: "Saturday is the new Friday." But without Friday, restaurant executives wonder whether Dubai brunch can keep its luster. Since the change took effect Jan. 2, many of Dubai's hottest brunch spots have felt lukewarm.

"The numbers are not that great at the moment on Saturdays compared to last year," said Arun Edakkeppurath, manager of the glass-enclosed Observatory Bar & Grill featuring views of Dubai's Palm Jumeirah artificial island.

The restaurant now receives a flood of calls from bewildered government employees, teachers and others who work a half day on Friday, demanding to know what happened to their famous brunch.

"I think people will react slowly to the changes," he added.

Other brunch places have reported empty tables since the weekend shift.

"There have been a large amount of cancellations," said Sadhan Adhilkary, assistant restaurant manager of Jazz@PizzaExpress, which scrambled this year to push its brunch to Saturday and rebook its music acts for Friday. "But it's hard to say the reason."

Business usually slows as residents tighten their belts after New Year's Eve spending binges, he said. Trepidation also has returned as the omicron variant of COVID-19 drives a surge in infections.

IMF to El Salvador: Drop Bitcoin as legal tender

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — The International Monetary Fund wants El Salvador to drop the highly volatile cryptocurrency Bitcoin as legal tender and strictly regulate the electronic wallet the government has pushed adoption of across the country.

The global lender's board "urged the authorities to narrow the scope of the Bitcoin law by removing Bitcoin's legal tender status," the IMF said Tuesday.

"The adoption of a cryptocurrency as legal tender, however, entails large risks for financial and market integrity, financial stability and consumer protection," the IMF said.

President Nayib Bukele led the push to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender alongside the U.S. dollar. El Salvador's Legislative Assembly made the country the first to do so in June and the law went into effect in September.

After nearly doubling in value, the price of Bitcoin has fallen more than 50% from its peak in November, and the cryptocurrency market as a whole has lost more than $1 trillion in value over that time.

From the start there were concerns that a digital currency created to be beyond the control of governments would attract criminal activity. Bukele promoted the adoption as way for thousand of Salvadorans to avoid money transfer fees when relatives living outside the country sent home remittances.

El Salvador's law called for all businesses with the technological ability to accept Bitcoin as payment. The rollout was glitchy, but seems to have smoothed out.

Bukele became a darling of the cryptocurrency's promoters and has since spoken of building a Bitcoin city and issuing Bitcoin-backed bonds, something else some IMF directors expressed concern over.

El Salvador's Treasury Minister Alejandro Zelaya noted the IMF's agreement that boosting financial inclusion was important and that an e-wallet could help, to which he added via Twitter: "It appears to work for financial inclusion, but you mustn't do it. The future waits for no one. #Bitcoin."

The New York Times contributed.

New home sales soar in Dec. as prices dip

By Matt Ott
Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Sales of new single family homes in December rose to their highest level in 10 months as buyers snapped up cheaper homes in anticipation of higher interest rates.

The increase put the seasonally adjusted annual sales pace to 811,000 for the month, according to the Commerce Department, an 11.9% increase over November's figure, which was revised to 725,000 from 744,000.

The median price of a new home, the point where half the homes sold for more and half for less, fell to $377,700, last month, its lowest level since June but about 4% higher than December 2020.

In the months following the pandemic outbreak in the spring of 2020, new home sales exploded as people sought out more space. Including December's big increase, sales for 2021 fell 14% from the red-hot 2020.

New home sales rose in three of the four regions, with the Midwest leading the way with a 56.4% increase. Sales rose 14.9% in the South and nominally in the West, offsetting a 15.6% decline in the Northeast.

Historically low mortgage rates have fed the demand for housing, even though rates are expected to rise as the Federal Reserve dials back its bond purchases to tamp down surging inflation.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac says the average rate on long-term, 30-year mortgages in the U.S. has risen from just over 3% a month ago to 3.5% last week, the highest level since March 2020.

The National Association of Realtors reported last week that sales of previously occupied homes fell in December for the first time in four months as many would-be buyers bailed, frustrated by the lowest level of available houses in more than 20 years.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

EU court tosses $1.43B Intel fine

LONDON — Chipmaker Intel scored a decisive legal victory Wednesday in a long-running battle against European Union competition watchdogs after a court reversed itself and threw out an antitrust fine issued more than a decade ago.

The EU's General Court annulled the $1.43 billion fine that competition regulators issued against Intel in 2009 for allegedly using illegal sales tactics.

It was the General Court's second decision on the case, after the bloc's top court ordered it to take another look at its ruling. The European Commission, the bloc's top antitrust enforcers, had fined Intel for allegedly abusing its dominant position in the global market for x86 microprocessors to exclude smaller rivals by using rebates.

Berkshire plans annual meeting

OMAHA, Neb. — Warren Buffett's company plans to hold its annual shareholders meeting that used to routinely attract more than 40,000 people in person this spring for the first time since the pandemic began.

Berkshire Hathaway said Tuesday that at this point it is planning to hold the meeting in person April 30. For the past two years, the meeting was held online only.

In the past, throngs of people would fill an arena in downtown Omaha every year to listen to Buffett and other Berkshire officials spend hours answering questions.

Many of Berkshire's more than 90 companies also set up booths to sell some of the products in a crowded exhibit hall adjoining the arena.

Jobless claims

Initial unemployment claims, seasonally adjusted, in millions per week



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor **TNS**

BUSINESS



Utility workers help a man search a vehicle near a downed utility pole after a wildfire in Paradise, Calif. PG&E has been blamed for over 30 wildfires since 2017. **NOAH BERGER/AP 2018**

PG&E's probation ends amid ongoing wildfire safety fears

By Michael Liedtke
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Pacific Gas & Electric has emerged from five years of criminal probation, despite worries that nation's largest utility remains too dangerous to trust after years of devastation from wildfires ignited by its outdated equipment and neglectful management.

The probation, which expired Tuesday, was supposed to rehabilitate PG&E after its 2016 conviction for six felony crimes from a 2010 explosion triggered by its natural gas lines that blew up a San Bruno neighborhood and killed eight people.

Instead, PG&E became an even more destructive force. Since 2017 the utility has been blamed for more than 30 wildfires that wiped out more than 23,000 homes and businesses and killed more than 100 people.

"In these five years, PG&E has gone on a crime spree and will emerge from probation as a continuing menace to California," U.S. District Judge William Alsup wrote in a report reviewing his oversight of the utility.

While on probation, PG&E pleaded guilty to 84 felony counts of involuntary manslaughter for a 2018 wildfire that wiped out the town of Paradise, about 170 miles northeast of San Francisco. Now PG&E faces more criminal charges in two separate cases, for a Sonoma County wildfire in 2019 and a Shasta County fire in 2020. PG&E has denied any criminal wrongdoing in those fires.

Even more potential criminal charges loom.

California regulators have linked PG&E to the Dixie Fire last year, when a tree is believed to have hit the utility's distribution lines in the Sierra Nevada — part of a sprawling, often rugged service territory covering 16 million Northern California customers.

During its probation, PG&E also plunged into bankruptcy for the second time in less than 20 years. Before emerging from bankruptcy last year, PG&E reached settlements of more than $25.5 billion, including $13.5 billion earmarked for wildfire victims that may fall short of doling out the amount initially promised.

PG&E's conduct prompted its court-appointed monitor, Mark Filip, to raise alarms about the utility's wildfire prevention efforts, though he applauded improvements in its natural gas operations.

"We doubt anyone would seriously contend PG&E's performance has been adequate, or that substantial improvement is not still imperative," Filip's team wrote in a report filed with Alsup late last year.

PG&E, a 117-year-old company, generates about $20 billion in revenue annually while serving a 70,000-square-mile service area in the northern and central part of California that includes farmland, forests, big cities and the world's technology hub in Silicon Valley.

The utility says it spends $1.4 billion annually to trim or remove trees, up from $400 million annually in 2017. But Alsup estimated PG&E still has a seven-year backlog of high-risk trees that need trimming or removal.

Concerns grow with delay in creating cybersecurity board

By Alan Suderman
Associated Press



President Biden signed an executive order last May creating the Cyber Safety Review Board. **ANDREW HARNIK/AP**

RICHMOND, Va. — It's a key part of President Joe Biden's plans to fight major ransomware attacks and digital espionage campaigns: creating a board of experts that would investigate major incidents to see what went wrong and try to prevent the problems from happening again — much like a transportation safety board does with plane crashes.

But eight months after Biden signed an executive order creating the Cyber Safety Review Board it still hasn't been set up.

That means critical tasks haven't been completed, including an investigation of the massive SolarWinds espionage campaign first discovered more than a year ago. Russian hackers stole data from several federal agencies and private companies.

Some supporters of the new board say the delay could hurt national security and comes amid growing concerns of a potential conflict with Russia over Ukraine that could involve nation-state cyberattacks.

The FBI and other federal agencies recently released an advisory — aimed particularly at critical infrastructure like utilities — on Russian state hackers' methods and techniques.

"We will never get ahead of these threats if it takes us nearly a year to simply organize a group to investigate major breaches like SolarWinds," said Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat who leads the Senate Intelligence Committee. "Such a delay is detrimental to our national security and I urge the administration to expedite its process."

Biden's order, signed in May, gives the board 90 days to investigate the SolarWinds hack once it's established.

But there's no timeline for creating the board itself, a job designated to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

In response to questions from The Associated Press, DHS said in a statement it was far along in setting it up and anticipated a "near-term announcement," but did not address why the process has taken so long.

Scott Shackelford, the cybersecurity program chair at Indiana University and an advocate for creating a cyber review board, said having a rigorous study about what happened in a past hack like SolarWinds is a way of helping prevent similar attacks.

"It sure is taking, my goodness, quite a while to get it going," Shackelford said. "It's certainly past time where we could see some positive benefits from having it stood up."

The Biden administration has made improving cybersecurity a top priority and taken steps to bolster defenses, but this is not the first time lawmakers have been unhappy with the pace of progress. Last year several lawmakers complained it took the administration too long to name a national cyber director, a new position created by Congress.

The SolarWinds hack exploited vulnerabilities in the software supply-chain system and went undetected for most of 2020 despite compromises at a broad swath of federal agencies and dozens of companies, primarily telecommunications and information technology providers. The hacking campaign is named SolarWinds after the U.S. software company whose product was exploited in the first-stage infection of that effort.

The hack highlighted the Russians' skill at getting to high-level targets. The AP previously reported that SolarWinds hackers had gained access to emails belonging to the then-acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf.

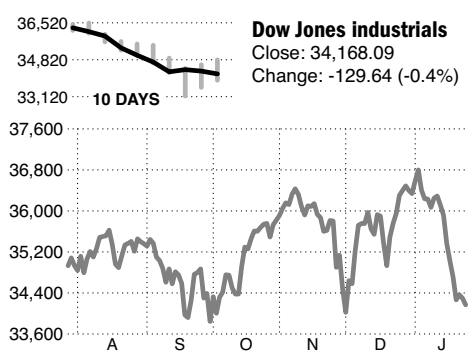
The Biden administration has kept many of the details about the cyberespionage campaign hidden.

The Justice Department, for instance, said in July that 27 U.S. attorney offices around the country had at least one employee's email account compromised during the hacking campaign. It did not provide details about what kind of information was taken and what impact such a hack may have had on ongoing cases.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, January 27, 2022

DOW 34,168.09 -129.64 ▼
10-YR T-BOND 1.84% +.06 ▲
GOLD $1,829.90 -22.80 ▼



Dow Jones industrials
Close: 34,168.09
Change: -129.64 (-0.4%)

Domestic Indexes

	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	34,168.09	-129.64	-5.97%
DOW Trans.	15,028.61	-152.78	-8.80%
DOW Util.	922.87	-3.67	-5.90%
NYSE Comp.	16,236.51	-103.81	-5.40%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,542.12	+2.82	-13.44%
S&P 500	4,349.93	-6.52	-8.73%
S&P 400	2,569.53	-25.62	-9.59%
Wilshire 5000	43,695.97	-147.09	-9.83%
Russell 2000	1,976.46	-27.57	-11.97%

Commodities

FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	87.35	85.60	+16.14%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.28	4.05	+14.66%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.52	2.46	+13.22%
METALS	**CLOSE**	**PREV.**	**YTD**
Gold (oz)	1,829.90	1,852.70	+.13%
Silver (oz)	23.81	23.90	+2.05%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange

	ForEx in U.S. $	U.S. $ in ForEx
Britain	1.3467	.7425
Canada	.7903	1.2654
China	.1582	6.3209
Euro	1.1254	.8886
Japan	.008730	114.55
Mexico	.048304	20.7022

Money Rates

	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Prime rate	3.25	3.25
3-mo. T-Bill	0.19	0.17
6-mo. T-Bill	0.41	0.36
5-yr T-Note	1.66	1.62
10-yr T-Note	1.84	1.82
30-yr T-Bond	2.17	2.14

Global Markets

	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD
Frankfurt	15,459.39	+335.52	+2.22%	-2.68%
London	7,469.78	+98.32	+1.33%	+1.15%
Hong Kong	24,289.90	+46.29	+.19%	+3.81%
Nikkei	27,011.33	-120.01	-.44%	-6.18%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	15.94	-.08	-41.4
AT&T Inc (T)	24.25	-2.23	-1.4
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	110.71	-.42	-23.1
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	16.24	-.22	-9.6
Amphenol Corp (APH)	76.34	+.33	-12.7
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.72	-.01	-1.3
Apple Inc (AAPL)	159.69	-.09	-10.1
Arrival Corp (ARVL)	3.24	-.32	-56.3
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.85	-.24	-10.1
Bank of America (BAC)	45.90	+.47	+3.2
Barnes Group (B)	45.46	-.28	-2.4
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2370.63	+41.61	-1.2
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	62.24	-.22	-.2
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	104.86	+1.76	+1.6
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.29	+.09	+.8
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	46.67	-.54	-14.0
Charter Communic (CHTR)	555.00	-8.54	-14.9
Cigna Corp (CI)	234.02	-.72	+1.9
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	55.33	-.78	-12.7
Citigroup (C)	64.75	+.64	+7.2
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (CLF)	16.26	-.59	-25.3
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	48.46	-1.21	-3.7
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	2.36	+.06	-24.1
Disney (DIS)	133.60	-2.91	-13.7
DraftKings Inc (DKNG)	20.33	+1.01	-26.0
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	116.35	-.59	-8.7
Energy Transfer L.P. (ET)	9.69	+.40	+17.7
Ethan Allen (ETD)	23.97	-.67	-8.8
Eversource Energy (ES)	84.65	-.92	-7.0
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.64	+.09	-27.0
Exicure Inc (XCUR)	.17	+.00	-18.3
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	74.17	-.76	+21.2
Ford Motor (F)	19.91	-.07	-4.1
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	3.86	-.01	-25.8
Gen Dynamics (GD)	204.92	-1.04	-1.7
Gen Electric (GE)	89.32	-1.79	-5.5
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB)	5.94	+.12	-16.7
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.23	-.15	+1.7
Honeywell Intl (HON)	200.65	-1.65	-3.8
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	14.43	-.21	-9.4
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Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	227.72	+4.48	-22.6
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OPINION

GOP should rethink wimpy platform

By Ramesh Ponnuru
Bloomberg Opinion

Democrats ran in 2020 on a long list of policies they planned to enact and implement, and now they are going through the agony of trying to make good on their promises. Republicans have found a foolproof way to avoid that pain: They're not going to campaign on any ideas.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell is perennially averse to having his party run on a legislative agenda. He discouraged Republican Senate candidates from campaigning on one in 2014, in the middle of President Barack Obama's second term, and has often told colleagues that the Republicans' nine-seat pickup that year vindicated that strategic choice.

Republicans have been following the plan not to have plans ever since. In 2016, Donald Trump ran for president with the wispiest of proposals: Building a wall and somehow making Mexico pay for it was as detailed as he got. In 2018, Republicans had control of both houses of Congress and the White House. They did not say what they would do if the voters kept them in power, beyond confirming judges. Trump released no second-term agenda when he ran for reelection in 2020, and the Republicans did not even produce a platform at their national convention that year. McConnell has reportedly told Republican donors he will not get behind a legislative agenda for this year's elections, either.

There are exceptions to the rule of Republican inactivism. U.S. Sens. Mike Lee, Marco Rubio and Josh Hawley have advanced ambitious proposals on a range of issues, as has J.D. Vance, the best-selling author who is running for Senate from Ohio. Their ideas are often heterodox among Republicans: Vance wants to break up big tech companies, for example, where most Republicans would prefer just to complain about them. Such ideas may gain ground, especially in the absence of alternatives.

For now, though, most Republicans are sticking with the McConnell way. It seems to have worked electorally. Republicans nearly won in 2020, even with an unpopular incumbent president. They are in a strong position to take the Senate and House of Representatives this fall. Reticence on policy may help them do it. An agenda creates a target. It also creates opportunity for dissension. It distracts from the main Republican message — Biden is a failure.

A degree of silence also fits with a conservative disposition. There are more bad ideas than good ones, more pieces of legislation that deserve defeat than support.

There's nothing wrong with running for legislative office primarily to prevent mistakes. In the U.S. political system, which has evolved to center on the White House, there's a stronger case for running that kind of campaign during the midterms than in a presidential-election year. The presidential race sets the country's political direction while the midterms function as a referendum on how the president is performing.

The main drawback to this strategy for Republican election victories is what happens after them, or rather what doesn't. The strategy makes it more difficult for Republicans to govern when they have the opportunity.

Consider the record of 2017-2018, the only two years within the last 15 when Republicans had unified control of the government. They spent months trying and ignominiously failing to move health care policy in their direction. Among the reasons for their defeat: They hadn't spent the previous years thinking about what to do about health care or responding to criticisms of their proposals. They decided to wait for their presidential candidate to come up with an agenda, but he preferred to tweet.

Democrats proceed very differently. They always have ideas about what government should be doing, as you would expect given their political philosophy, and they often offer many proposals during campaigns. The Democrats worked out many of their differences over health care in the campaigns of 2006 and 2008 before trying to make law in 2009, for example, and the decision to make the issue a priority was effectively taken party-wide. This difference in approach probably helps explain why, over the last generation, Democrats have done more to shape federal policy.

Or, to put it another way, why Democratic rule has been more effective.

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What Biden could learn from Clinton



Jonah Goldberg

"You and my husband think so similarly when it comes to politics," Hillary Clinton once told Joe Biden. "You guys were almost separated at birth."

It's interesting to think about how Biden's first year as president would have gone differently if this were in fact true.

The easiest way to illustrate this is to ask: "Where are the Sister Souljah moments?"

Sister Souljah, a rapper and writer, gained notoriety in 1992 when Bill Clinton, running for president, made a planned attack on her controversial statements about the Los Angeles riots after a jury acquitted police officers in the beating of Rodney King. Wikipedia even has a lengthy "Sister Souljah Moment" entry, defining it as a "politician's calculated public repudiation of an extremist person, statement, group or position that is perceived to have some association with the politician's own party."

More on that in a moment.

Both Biden and Clinton are frequently dubbed "centrists" but they subscribe to very different definitions of centrism, neither of them particularly ideological.

For Clinton, it's the popular stuff from both parties. For Biden, the center amounted to splitting the difference between the two poles of the Democratic Party. Biden spent decades in a Senate in which there were a great many liberal and conservative Democrats. His strategy was to straddle between them. As the party moved leftward, with conservative Democrats fading away (even Joe Manchin would be a big-spending liberal a decade ago), Biden and the party's center of gravity moved leftward, too.

Clinton's ascent to the Oval Office was the result of a decadelong war with the Democratic establishment. Biden's entire career was as a member of that establishment, as a senator, vice president and now president. That makes all the difference in the world.



Ex-President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton at Joe Biden's inauguration. **JONATHAN ERNST/POOL VIA GETTY-AFP 2021**

As a candidate, Clinton triangulated against the Democratic base, billing himself as a "third way" figure unbeholden to the special interest and identity politics groups that had captured the party. On the campaign trail, he inveighed against welfare policies supported by the base, promising a "hand up, rather than a handout." He even took time off from the trail to oversee the execution of a severely brain damaged inmate, Ricky Ray Rector (Rector actually asked the guards to save his pie until after his execution).

Ironically, Biden's success in the 2020 primaries hinged on the belief that he was more of a Clinton-style centrist. That's why he beat the purely progressive ideologues.

But as president, Biden has steadfastly refused to triangulate. There have been countless potential Sister Souljah moments. Amid surging crime rates in New York City, the new Manhattan district attorney vowed not to seek prison sentences, even for some violent criminals, whenever possible. Biden says schools should stay open, but he's never criticized teachers' unions, even when they refused to work in Chicago. And, countless Democratic members of Congress say inflammatory things on a daily basis. Why not pick a fight?

Biden could also have told the Democratic base that their voting reform wish list, largely unchanged since 2019, wasn't a pragmatic response to the current moment. Instead, he parroted the most extreme language of the base, accusing Republicans of being on the side of Jim Crow and Bull Connor. A telling moment in his epic news conference last week came when Biden explained why he didn't reach out to Republicans on voting reform: He was too busy "trying to make sure we got everybody on the same page in my party on this score."

The mother of Sister Souljah moments came last June when Biden succeeded in fulfilling one of the core promises of his presidency: a bipartisan traditional infrastructure bill, with 19 Republican senators on board. He could have declared victory, telling the Democratic base that trillions more of poorly funded "human infrastructure" wasn't in the cards. Instead, he caved to the base, vowing — at the time — only to sign the popular bill if the progressives got everything they wanted, too.

In June 1993, when Bill Clinton's approval ratings were even lower than Biden's today, Clinton sought a reset. He declared, "I was sent to the White House, I think, to take on brain-dead politics in Washington from either party — or from both."

It was widely assumed Biden would use his press conference for a similar do-over. But when asked if he overpromised, he said, "Look, I didn't overpromise, but I have probably outperformed what anybody thought would happen."

Bill Clinton would never have done that.

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Do Americans even know what free speech really means?

By Stephen L. Carter
Bloomberg Opinion

The Knight Foundation and Ipsos have a new survey on Americans' views about free speech, and for those of us who consider spirited and even wrongheaded debate crucial to democracy, there's both good news and bad.

Let's start with the good news. Asked whether freedom of speech is an important constitutional right, 99% of respondents in the Knight survey said yes. The only other right with such near-unanimous endorsement is the equal protection of the laws.

The bad news is that on nearly every practical aspect of speech, divisions are sharp, partisan and afflicted by both the availability heuristic and recency bias.

It's striking, for instance, that Democrats, at 86%, are by far the most likely to agree on the importance of "preventing people from inciting others to violence." Republicans are at 68% and independents at 71%. How did the party of the left become the champions of law and order, and a significant minority of the GOP defenders of incendiary rhetoric?

That's where the availability heuristic comes in. Everybody seems to be focused on Jan. 6, 2021 — and perhaps overreacting to an isolated event. Thus Democrats are forgetting their history of supporting those accused of fomenting violence in the cause of battling oppression, and Republicans are discarding their traditional insistence that protesters must make their cases without disturbing public order.

I'm not suggesting that Republicans as a group support the U.S. Capitol rioters — in the survey, only one-third describe what happened as legitimate First Amendment activity. I'm suggesting only that a few years ago, the GOP numbers would have been higher. (Incidentally, 12% of Democrats, perhaps captivated by rosy memories of armed Black Panthers marching into the California statehouse in 1967, also believe that the violence at the Capitol last January was an exercise in free speech.)

Which brings us to everybody's favorite bugaboo — misinformation. Even though Democrats (89%) are significantly more likely than independents (73%) or Republicans (63%) to label "preventing the spread of false information" as either "very important" or "extremely important," the larger headline is that strong majorities of every group agree.

That's a problem. Free speech, like other constitutional rights, only makes sense if one is free to use it unwisely. Otherwise, there's no freedom to speak; there's only a freedom to speak what some arbiter declares to be the truth.

Alas, the Knight-Ipsos survey includes no queries about who gets to decide what is misinformation. But there's a hint when respondents are asked whether they agree with this statement: "Online news providers should be allowed to publish any story without the government having the ability to block or censor them."

Again, the results are discouraging. A mere 60% of Democrats think that letting the government "block or censor" the news is a bad idea. Independents stand at 70%, Republicans at 77%. All these numbers are worrisomely low — at least for those raised on the idea that democracy relies on roughing-and-tumbling our way through robust, open and unregulated public debate.

Speaking of rough and tumble, majorities of every political group believe that the 2020 racial justice demonstrations were a legitimate exercise of First Amendment rights. That's good news.

The bad news is the sharp partisan division over the status of protests against the results of the 2020 presidential election. Strong majorities of independents (60%) and Republicans (73%) consider those protests legitimate acts of free speech.

Only 39% of Democrats agree. (At the same time, hardly anybody believes that burning or defacing the American flag is an appropriate form of protest. That only 16% of Republicans think so is unremarkable. That only 36% of independents and 37% of Democrats think so is a surprise.)

I'm hoping this low figure reflects once more the inability to turn away from legitimate outrage over the Capitol Riot. But sometimes turning away helps us see more.

I'll mention one last item. A recent trend in First Amendment scholarship views free speech principally as a protection for the voices of outsiders. In the Knight-Ipsos report, every group sees itself as the outsider, struggling to be heard.

Republicans and independents are certain liberals have superior access to the public square; Democrats think the advantage lies with conservatives. No racial group, not even white Americans, is confident of its own ability to speak freely. (Black Americans, by a large margin, are most likely to believe their own speech is marginalized.)

The fact that so many Americans think they're being crowded out of the public square is reason for sorrow. But if it's true that most of the country believes its free speech rights to be imperiled, perhaps there exists a majority — dare we call it a silent one? — that will resist any effort to tamper with the First Amendment.

For democracy, that would be a big win.

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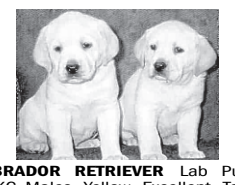
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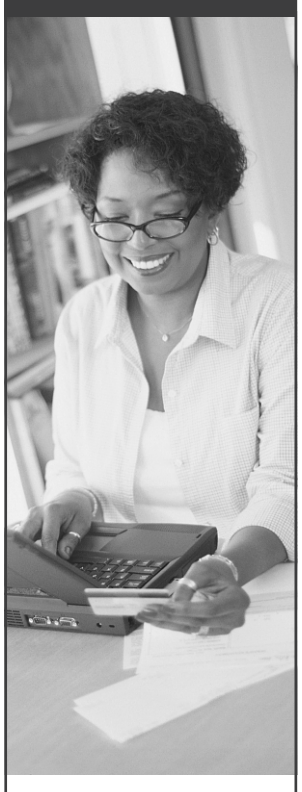
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Hartford

TAX NOTICE
TOWN OF MANSFIELD

NOTICE is hereby given to ALL PERSONS liable to pay taxes in the Town of Mansfield, CT, that the second payment of their taxes on the list of Oct. 1, 2020 is due Jan. 1, 2022, and that the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax for vehicles registered between Oct. 2, 2020 and July 31, 2021 is also due on Jan. 1, 2022. Tax Bills are now on-line at www.mansfieldct.gov under make a payment. Phone inquiries can be made at 860-429-3307. The Tax Office is located in the Audrey P. Beck Building. The office will be closed on Fri. Dec 31st, 2021 and Mon. Jan 17, 2022. The grace period to pay the taxes is through Feb. 1, 2022. As soon as such tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.50% of such tax for each month or fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid, with a minimum interest charge of $2.00 (See Chapter 204, Sections 12-145, 12-146). The Statutes of the State of Connecticut that apply to the levy and collection of taxes will be enforced against any person neglecting this notice. Failure to receive a tax bill does not release the responsibility of having to pay interest on the tax in accordance with State Statutes outlined in this notice.

Jerl J Casey, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, Town of Mansfield, CT
12/27/21 1/5/22 & 1/27/22 7107678

Notice of Public Sale: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart at 55 Research Parkway, Old Saybrook, CT 06475 to satisfy a lien on February 8th, 2022 at approx. 12:00 p.m. at www.storagetreasures.com:

Unit 118: Joshua Goss
Unit 334: Norma Socci
Unit 517: Tristin Fowler
Unit 2260: Antonio Laboy
Unit 2305: Robert Sobolewski
1/25/22 & 1/27/22 7128189

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

The following self-storage cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 45 School House Rd, Old Saybrook ,CT 06475 to satisfy a lien on February 08, 2022 at approx. 12:00PM at www.storagetreasures.com

Unit 5019: Allen Knott

Unit 5054: Christina Fantoni
1/25/22 & 1/27/22 7128664

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
TOWN COUNSEL
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT

The TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, CONNECTICUT, is seeking written proposals from licensed practicing attorneys to act as TOWN COUNSEL for the Town. Proposals will be received by the Town of East Haddam at the office of the First Selectman until 12:00 noon local time, on February 22, 2022, after which time no further proposals will be accepted. The Proposals will be reviewed thereafter by the Board of Selectmen. The TOWN anticipates appointing TOWN COUNSEL on or before March 2, 2022.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION
The TOWN seeks an experienced attorney familiar with municipal law who is either a sole practitioner or a part of a larger firm. While the TOWN prefers to designate an individual, and not an entire firm, as the TOWN COUNSEL, the TOWN recognizes that different members of a firm may provide different areas of expertise to the benefit of the TOWN. Due consideration will be given to the attorney's and/or firm's experience representing other towns and municipal agencies.

The TOWN COUNSEL will represent the TOWN OF EAST HADDAM, its elected and appointed officials, and its various boards and agencies, on an as needed and as requested basis. The TOWN requires prompt attention to all matters referred to the TOWN COUNSEL, and many will have strict deadlines that the TOWN COUNSEL must meet. While a portion of the work can be handled by telephone and email, the TOWN COUNSEL will be expected to attend meetings at the Municipal Office Complex, both day and evening, on an as-needed basis. The TOWN COUNSEL will report to the First Selectman, who will be the point of contact for the TOWN COUNSELOR on all matters, although the TOWN COUNSEL will be working with various town officials and employees at various times.

Specifically excluded from this representation are the Board of Education, Tax Collector and all Land Use boards, which are separately represented by other counsel. The TOWN also has separate counsel for employment matters and for bonding.

THE TOWN currently compensates its TOWN COUNSEL on an hourly basis, billed monthly, and while that is the preferred basis for any agreement, the TOWN will consider any different compensation method set forth in any proposal. The TOWN COUNSEL will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Selectmen and may be terminated at any time for any or no reason.

THE TOWN requests that any response to this REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL include a complete and full description of the experience and background of the attorney and/or firm, the Juris number of the attorney, a proposal for compensation method including an hourly rate (or such other method of compensation as may be proposed) a copy of a current Certificate of Professional Liability Insurance, and any other information that may be helpful to the TOWN in making its decision.

The right is reserved by the TOWN to reject any or all proposals, to waive any informalities or defects or to accept the proposal that, in the judgment of the TOWN will be in its best interests.

Dated at East Haddam, Connecticut

Irene M. Haines
January 24, 2022

First Selectman

1/27/22 7135960

Notice Of Public Sale

: The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart, 1501 Route 12 Gales Ferry CT 06335 to satisfy a lien on February 10 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storagetreasures.com:
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Cube: 209 - Robert Jacobowitz
Cube: 238 - Leeartis Nevith
Cube: 241 - Sarah Lizotte
Cube: 420 - Thomas Demauro 3rd
Cube: 1114 - Donald Brown
Cube: 2114 - Amargeet Singh
Cube: 2232 - Christopher Hernandez
Cube: 2560 - Shannon Larrow
1/27/22 & 1/28/22 7132608

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage unit contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 868 Flanders Rd. Mystic, CT 06355 to satisfy a lien on February 10 2022 at approx. 1:30 PM at www.storagetreasures.com:
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Cube: 621 - Jennefer Higginbotham
Cube: 657 - Jennefer Higginbotham
1/27/22 & 1/28/22 7132619

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The Metropolitan District
555 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103-2987

Prospective respondents must register on the MDC ProcureWare Site; once registered, the solicitation can be downloaded at www.https://mdc.procureware.com/home.

Sealed proposals will be received and safeguarded by The Metropolitan District, at the office of the District Clerk, until 2:00 PM (Local Time), February 24, 2022.

John S. Mirtle
District Clerk
1/27/22 7136456

Connecticut

Legal Notice
Request for Qualifications

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is seeking the assistance of consulting firms to provide transportation engineering services to CRCOG and its member municipalities for two (2) on-call lists: Municipal Engineering Design Phase Assistance and Municipal Engineering Construction Phase Assistance. This RFQ pertains solely to projects funded under the state's Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTCIP). An RFQ including scope of service summaries, minimum firm requirements, and submission instructions may be found on the CRCOG website at http://crcog.org/rfprfq/. Questions should be directed in writing to CRCOG staff as indicated in the RFQ. Statements of qualifications must be received by CRCOG no later than 2:00 p.m. on March 1, 2022. Responses received after this time will not be considered.
1/27/2022 7131498

LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Seymour Board of Education is soliciting proposals from law firms to represent the Board of Education in legal matters, generally excluding matters of special education. The full text of the
Request for Proposals is available on the Board of Education's website at www.seymourschools.org.
Proposals should be submitted to : Seymour Public Schools, 98 Bank Street, Seymour, Connecticut 06483, telephone number (203) 888-4564 extension 1905, email: sbucci@seymourschools.org no later than February 10, 2022.
1/27/2022 7136582

TOWN OF ENFIELD CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS
ROOFS 2021 REFERENDUM
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SCHOOL FACILITIES

January 27, 2022
Sealed responses to the RFQ&P named above will be received at the office of the Director of Finance until 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 24, 2022. Thereafter, the proposal portion will be opened in public read aloud or opened and read aloud pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders.
The RFQ&P documents will be available from the Office of the Director of Public Works, Stanley E. Jablonski DPW Complex, 40 Moody Road, Enfield, CT 06082, telephone number (860) 763-7599 or the Town's website, www.enfield-ct.gov.
The Town of Enfield reserves the right to accept or reject any, all, or any part of the responses, to waive formalities or informalities, and to make awards that are deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.
John A. Wilcox
Director of Finance
EOE/AA
1/27/2022 7136829

Connecticut

LEGAL NOTICE
Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc.
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
RENOVATIONS _____

The Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc. is soliciting qualifications from licensed and insured architects to provide professional and technical services for renovations at 433 Valley Street, Willimantic, CT. The project may include but is not limited to renovations and upgrades, including an adjacent building, consistent with federal standards.

Qualifications should include the following information: Name, address, and brief description of firm, resumes of key personnel assigned to the project, statement as to firm's particular abilities and qualifications related to this project, description of other similar projects completed by the firm in the past 5 years, and fee proposal.

Selection criteria will be based in descending order on technical understanding of the project, specialized experience of the firm and its personnel, ability to carry out the contracted services in a timely fashion, and fee proposal.

Firms or individuals must be able to provide evidence of insurance meeting the minimum requirements of $500,000 errors and omissions, general liability $1,000,000 and Workers Compensation.

Three (3) copies of the Qualifications are due at the Windham Region No Freeze Project no later than 5:00 PM on February 7, regardless of the method of delivery. Qualifications may be mailed to: Windham No Freeze, PO Box 46, Willimantic, CT 06226. Faxed or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Interviews will be scheduled after all qualifications are received.

The Windham Region No Freeze Project, Inc. is an EEO/AA employer and encourages Small, Minority, Women owned and Section 3 firms to apply.

Dated this 26th day of January, 2022
Avery Lenhart, Executive Director
1/27, 1/28/2022 7136578

CITY OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The second semi-annual installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2020, and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle List, were due and payable on January 1, 2022.
Failure to pay any tax due January 1, 2022, on or before February 1, 2022, will cause the tax to become delinquent and subject to interest, from the due date, at the rate of 1 1/2 % per full or partial month. Any delinquent tax is subject to a minimum interest charge of two dollars ($2.00).
Since failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or, in the event of delinquency, respective penalties, taxpayers who did not receive a bill should request a duplicate from the Division of Assessment and Collection.
Payments may be mailed, utilizing the envelopes included with the bills, on the city's website, www.HartfordCT.gov/tax, and in person at the Office of the Tax Collector, 550 Main Street, Room 106, Hartford, Connecticut, Monday through Wednesday between 8:15 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Thursday 8:15 a.m. thru 7:00 p.m. and Friday 8:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. excluding holidays.

Nancy Raich, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Hartford
1/10, 27/22 7116193

Legal Notice
Request for Letters of Interest
Task Order Sustainability and Resiliency Support Services

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is seeking to engage four (4) consulting firms to provide sustainability and resiliency support services for transportation projects and assets in accordance with State and Federal regulations. More detailed information regarding this assignment can be found at: https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/Consultant-Selection/Consultant-Selection-Information.

Connecticut Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer
1/27, 1/28/2022 7136823

LEGAL NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TOWN OF EAST HADDAM

The Town of East Haddam requests that sealed bids be submitted for the following:
Access Control Systems for the Town of East Haddam Fire Company #1 and Fire Company #2

Said bid must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked Fire Department Access Control Systems.

All inquiries should be directed to Director of Operations, Don Angersola 860-873-5021.

All sealed bids will be accepted at the Selectman's Office until 11:00 am, Tuesday, February 22, 2022 and will be opened at that time and date. No FAX bids will be accepted.

Specifications and bid documents may be obtained from the office of the First Selectman, Town of East Haddam, Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, PO. Box 385, Moodus, CT 06469 or by calling (860) 873-5021.

The Town of East Haddam reserves the right to waive any informalities or defects in any bid. The Town reserves the right to accept other than the lowest bid if the Board of Selectmen, in its sole discretion, deems it to be in the best interest of the Town to do so. Bids, amendments to bids or withdrawal of bids after the time set for bid acceptance will not be considered.

Dated at East Haddam, Connecticut
January 24, 2022
Irene M. Haines
First Selectman
1/27/2022 7135983

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

State of Connecticut
Department of Administrative Services
INVITATION TO SUBMIT LEASE PROPOSAL

The State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services, will accept lease proposals/site offerings from property owners or their representative(s) through 3 p.m. February 2, 2022, to lease up to 10,939 net usable square feet of office space, with on-site, reserved, paved and lighted parking for Fifty (50) cars with access to EV charging station(s) in Hartford, for use and occupancy by the Judicial Branch (JUD) for a term of five (5) years. Offers from option holders cannot be considered. The premises must be accessible to individuals with disabilities and public transportation. Preference will be given to proponents offering purchase, renewal options and/or termination clauses.

Proposals should be addressed exclusively to:

Department of Administrative Services
450 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, CT 06103

Attention: Statewide Leasing and Property Transfer – Suite 1402
Solicitation Number: LP 22-04

Emailed to: Samantha.mclaughlin@ct.gov

Proposals must be submitted using the State of Connecticut "Proposal to Lease Space" form together with a "Notice of Listing Agreement", if applicable. Lease proposal information and related forms may be obtained using "CT Source" link at https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/BidBoard or by calling (860) 916.0859. The submission of a proposal shall not bind the State of Connecticut, nor does it constitute a competitive bid. The Department of Administrative Services reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Faxed proposals will not be accepted. If you are awarded the subject lease and the lease has a value of $50,000 or more, you will be required to sign and submit, at the time of lease execution, a certification, certifying that you, your company, and specified other individuals have given no gifts to DAS personnel and other individuals set forth in the certification. See http://portal.ct.gov/DAS/Leasing-and-Property-Transfer/Lease-Space-to-the-State/Documents, click on Affidavits, click on Contractor/Consultant Certification or see Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-252. Pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §4-252(d), any bidder, proposer, or person who responded to a request for qualifications for a contract with a value of $50,000 or more who does not make this certification shall be disqualified. BE ADVISED, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §9-612, any person submitting a Proposal to Lease Space shall be deemed a Prospective State Contractor and thereby subject to the prohibition on gifts and campaign contributions contained in Section 9-612.

Josh Geballe, Commissioner
1/27/2022 7136458

ORDER OF NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
DOCKET NUMBER 2077CV00677
Trial Court of Massachusetts The Superior Court
CASE NAME:
Tonie Singh vs. Nancy Jean Poole
Administrator, Administratrix of the Estate of George William Poole et al
RE: Heirs of Linda D. Hemenway, TBD
Essex County Superior Court - Lawrence
43 Appleton Wav Lawrence, MA 01841

WHEREAS a civil action has been begun against you in our Superior Court by Tonie Singh wherein it is seeking to;
Quiet Title
We COMMAND YOU if you intend to make any defense, that on 02/04/2022 or within such further time as the law allows you do cause your written pleading to be filed in the office of the Clerk of Court named above, in said Commonwealth, and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein.
Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence.
It appearing to this Court that no personal service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, a copy of which is hereto attached and made part of this notice, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to them by publishing, once a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20-days before said return day in the:
Newspaper: The Hartford Courant
City/ Town: Hartford, CT
1/14, 1/21, 1/28/2022 7126271

Liquor Notices

LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **ALPER T KADIOGLU, 686 THEMAR CT, BALDWIN, NY 11510-3918.** Have filed an application placarded **01/27/2022** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **GROCERY BEER PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **38 W BROAD ST STAMFORD CT 069023715**. The business will be owned by AK BEVERAGE LLC. Objections must be filed by: 3/10/22.

01/27/2022
ALPER T KADIOGLU
1/27 & 2/3/22 7134277

LIQUOR PERMIT
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

This is to give notice that I, **KEVIN B. MCDONNELL, 48 CHESTER HILL RD, WARWICK, NY 10990-2556.** Have filed an application placarded **01/27/2022** with the Department of Consumer Protection for a **GROCERY BEER PERMIT** for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at **590 WINDSOR AVE WINDSOR CT 06095-4046**. The business will be owned by PRRC, INC.. Entertainment will consist of: Objections must be filed by: 03-10-2022.

01/27/2022
KEVIN B. MCDONNELL
1/27, 2/3/2022 7133734

MALSHI

Malshi pups for sale . Hypoallergenic & non shedding $2000 call or text 4015272491



MINI GOLDENDOODLE Puppies! 2 females available yet. Stunningly beautiful colors! Hypoallergenic. Minimal shedding. Will be approx 25-30 pounds full grown. Family raised and loved. Fun loving! Loves People! Sure to win your heart! First shots, vet exams, microchipped, 2 year health guarantee. Ready to go January 26. Delivery options available. $2,400 Hoosick Falls, NY 802-282-2232 call/text"

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon
Richard A. St. Jean
Berlin
Corrado Burgio
Marieanne Thibault
Bloomfield
Blossom L. Guthrie-Wheatly
Jervis D. Kester
Julia E. Rankins
Bristol
Lucille Eckert
Cristin Terwilleger
Dorothy L. Zane
Cromwell
Gordon S. Bates
Lorraine E. Bergstrom
East Hampton
Curtis A. Stoldt
East Hartford
Beatrice Carlson
Curtis A. Stoldt
Ellington
Daniel E. Leach
Phyllis Skinner King
Virginia C. Wilcox
Enfield
Stanley Ziemnicki
Farmington
Erwin G. Schramma
Glastonbury
Gordon S. Bates
Ruth M. Katz
Hartford
Salvatore S. Ciarcia
Blossom L. Guthrie-Wheatly
Leslie I. Jackson
Manchester
Roberta Martin
Virginia C. Wilcox
New Britain
Corrado Burgio
Marieanne Thibault
Newington
Lorraine E. Bergstrom
Burton A. Miller
Richard D. Prouty
Old Lyme
John C. Petersen
Other Towns in CT
Chad M. Andrews
Isabelle Dellabitta
Kevin W. Johnson
Daniel E. Leach
Mary Martins
Teresa Ridgeway
Richard A. St. Jean
Dorothy Tyc
Out of State
Roberta Martin
Portland
Dorothy Tyc
Rocky Hill
Vincent Dalo
South Windsor
William J. Lesinski
Southington
Isabelle Dellabitta
Lucille Eckert
Torrington
Cristin Terwilleger
Vernon
Beatrice Carlson
Phyllis Skinner King
West Hartford
Jervis D. Kester
Burton A. Miller
Julia E. Rankins
Windsor
William J. Lesinski
OUT OF STATE
Ruth M. Katz
Great Falls, VA

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Schramma, Erwin Gerhard



In remembrance of our dear storyteller Erwin, who had ninety-nine years of life, we share the story of who he was.
As a husband to Helga, he worked hard so they could have a good life. They married in 1952 and came to America in 1956, flying across the Atlantic with baby Petra to a new place where he spoke almost no English and had few friends beyond members of their sponsor church who helped them get started. They worked very hard to buy their first house in Farmington where he built his dream of a larger German-style home to raise his family. He made sure that the home was strong and in good repair, with a warm fireplace and special places to enjoy with friends and family.
As a father of two, Erwin taught the values of strong work ethic, self-sufficiency, and care for the family. Being raised on a farm, he knew most skills needed to maintain a homestead. To that end, he made sure every bit, brick, and board was kept and stored, in case he might need it someday. Both Petra and Edgar had to participate in all the seasonal tasks as a way to learn and contribute to the family. Although a kind and gentle man, Erwin was not always the easiest person to get along with. But despite the times of strife, moments of bonding came through working on home projects, family travel adventures, music, and sail boating.
As a grandfather he was a fond but distant man with a slow, deep, thickly-accented voice, who would affectionately pat a visiting grandchild and slip them a crisp $20 bill. He would launch into a story or a joke whenever the thought occurred to him, making sure there were smiles and understanding of the life lessons he was sharing. He was always eager to share his wisdom and experience with the young visitors, whether or not there was patience to listen.
As a friend and neighbor, Erwin was always eager to help others with repairing a mower, laying out a foundation, or building an everlasting stone wall. He found long-time friendships and camaraderie at the Hartford Sängerbund and the Liederkranz. He invited many to retreat to his bunker to enjoy stories, songs, childhood poetry, and a slug of German schnapps. Through sharing so much of himself, he cultivated a community of fellowship, to which we raise our glasses. Prost!
Erwin Gerhard Schramma was born October 29, 1922 in Kallenczinnen, East Prussia, to Mattis and Lina (Palluck). He died January 23, 2022. He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters Hedwig, Edith, and Waltraud; brother Heinz; and son-in-law Joseph Jenkinson. He is survived by his wife Helga (Ulonska); daughter Petra Jenkinson; son Edgar; grandchildren Erica and Kelsey Schramma, and Patrick and Stefanie (Nathan) Jenkinson; and sister Elisabeth Willuhn.
Services will be held at St. James Episcopal Parish, 3 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT on Monday January 31: viewing from 10-11am, funeral service from 11am-12pm, followed by a luncheon from 12-2pm in the Parish Hall. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to: The Hartford Sängerbund, 719 North Mountain Road, Newington, Connecticut 06111, Telephone 860.953.8967. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Homes, Inc., www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Petersen, John Charles

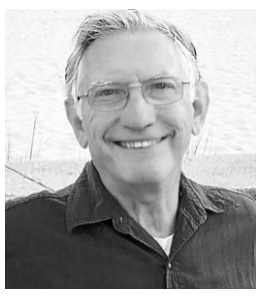


1949-2022
John Charles Petersen, age 73, of Old Lyme, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, surrounded by family and loved ones, after fiercely battling cancer.
John was born and raised in Connecticut, where he lived throughout his life. In 2020, John retired from the State of CT Judicial Branch, after a career in mental health services that spanned more than 50 years. John loved to travel, taking adventures around the world, and making friends along the way. In the last decade of his life, he drove from Connecticut to Alaska, rode horses through African plains, traveled across China, and ice-trekked through Antarctica; he experienced it all and cherished every minute on the road. John's other loves included music (singing, playing, & listening), ballet, sports (go Red Sox!), and horseback riding.
John is survived by children Judy, Becky, and Chris, brother Jim, sister Sandy, grandchildren Kristen, Kimberly, Eva, Vivian, John, and Jake, and nephew Dylan.
John was predeceased by his parents, Aida and Iver, and sister Barbara (Beane).
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a gathering of family and friends to celebrate John's life will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to East Coast Contemporary Ballet (https://eccballet.org) and/or Connecticut Ballet (https://www.connecticutballet.org).

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

Bates, Gordon S.



Gordon Samuel Bates, 87, of Cromwell, beloved husband for 63 years of Wanda (Blakeway) Bates, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Thursday, January 20, 2022. Born in Yonkers, NY on June 20, 1934, he was the son of the late Samuel and Maude Bates. He was a graduate of Yonkers High School and Trinity College in Hartford. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Hartford Seminary.
Ordained in 1959 in his home church (Dayspring Presbyterian) of Yonkers, he served as Assistant Minister at the Second Presbyterian Church in Wilkinsburg, PA and in CT as Organizing Pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church serving families east of the CT River.
He was a member of the staff as Minister-at-Large at South Congregational Church, East Hartford as well as joining the CT Prison Association (now Community Partners in Action) as Program Director of Volunteer Services. In 1980 he became the Executive Director of the CPA. He retired from this position in 1997. He then served for 7 years as the Associate Conference Minister for Justice/Witness Ministries for the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ. His last 10 years of ministry was serving as Minister of Visitation for First Congregational Church, UCC in Glastonbury, his beloved home church for 40 years.
In 2012, Gordon and Wanda moved to Covenant Living of Cromwell, where Gordon served as president of the Resident Council, on the Spiritual Life Committee, and contributed in so many ways with worship, music and Current Events leadership. After many years of research, in 2017 his book covering the history of Criminal Justice in CT was published – The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice.
Gordon was a wise man whose sense of humor, curiosity, openness to new ideas, and passion for the environment, science, philosophy and justice issues burned bright until the end. He was also truly a pastor and a friend, a man whose ability to listen, empathize, lift up and care for others touched and enriched the lives of so many people. Gordon saw the value and the good in every person he met. He embraced life, both as a leader and as a quiet man who loved reading, conversation, singing, the outdoors, technology, and anything involving his children and grandchildren.
A loving husband, father and grandfather, Gordon will be forever missed by his devoted wife Wanda; four daughters, Cynthia and husband Jonathan Russell, Susan and husband Andrew Schlotterbeck, Karen and husband Bryan Pritchett, Linda and husband Shawn Kelly and his six adored grandchildren, Emma and Samuel Russell, Elizabeth and Sabrina Pritchett and Ethan and Paige Rosa. Gordon was predeceased by his sister, Barbara Innis. The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staff serving on the 4th floor of Pilgrim Manor, Covenant Living of Cromwell, for their compassionate caring during Gordon's last weeks.
Due to the current public health situation, a celebration of Gordon's life will be held at a later date when it is safe to gather. Donations in Gordon's memory may be made to the Gordon S. Bates Scholarship Fund, Community Partners in Action, 110 Bartholomew Avenue, Suite 3010, Hartford, CT 06106. The Glastonbury Funeral Home, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford has been entrusted with the arrangements. To share a memory of Gordon with his family, please visit www.glastonburyfuneral.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Lesinski, William J. "Bill"



William J. "Bill" Lesinski, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, with his wife, Kathleen and son, Scott by his side.

Bill was born on December 5, 1942, in Hartford, CT, and was a 1959 graduate of Hartford Public High School where he was captain of the football team and All State. He attended Boston University from 1960-1964 where he was a captain and standout football player, receiving several prestigious awards, such as All East, All New England, and All American. Bill went on to play semi-professional football from 1964-1968 for the Hartford Charter Oaks, Waterbury Orbits, and Hartford Knights. He went on to have a successful career as a Physical Education Teacher, Football, Boy's Track, and Girl's Track coach, which he started in 1972, and then was the Athletic Director for Windsor High School. He completed his career as District Coordinator of Physical Education, Health, Athletics, and Safety at Consolidated Schools of New Britain. Bill was recognized as Athletic Director of the year through Connecticut High School Coaches Association and CAAD. He was also the Eastern Regional Athletic Director of the Year through NCSSAD and a Finalist for the National Athletic Director of the Year. Bill was also inducted into both the Hartford Public and Windsor High Hall of Fame. He had a significant impact on many of his athletes, students, and coaches throughout his career and was well respected and loved.

After retiring in June 2000, he and Kathy enjoyed traveling, dogsledding, raising 30 Siberian Huskies, and fishing from their boat, "Lovin' Life." Sadly, Bill endured living with dementia for the last eleven years. He always said his successes and accomplishments were due to his career playing football but, in the end, football had taken many precious years of his life.

Bill was a wonderful husband and best friend to his wife, Kathleen for thirty years. He was a loving and proud father to his two sons, William J. Lesinski, Jr. and his wife Robin and Scott D. Lesinski and his wife Dawn; his two grandchildren, Adam and Hunter; and his former wife, Lucy Schmitke. He also leaves behind to cherish his memory two brothers, Leon Lesinski and Chester Lesinski and Risa Miller; his nephews, Craig, Brian, and Erik Lesinski; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Michael and Louise Tiernan.

Family and friends may join the family for memorial calling hours on Sunday, January 30, 4-7 p.m., at Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave, Windsor. A private family burial will be held in Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Bill may be made to the New Britain High School Football Team, c/o David DeFronzo, Athletic Director New Britain High School, 110 Mill Street, New Britain, CT 06051.

Bill's family would like to extend gratitude to the staff of The Atrium at Cardinal Drive in Agawam, MA for their loving care this past year.

We honor and thank him for his many gifts to his family members, friends, students, athletes, and a long list of people mentored by him.

For online expressions of sympathy please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

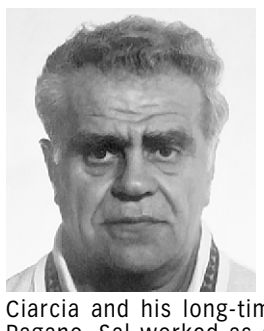
Martins, Mary



Mary Silva Martins, 98, of Crystal River, Fl, passed away January 22, 2022, under the loving care of her family. She was born on January 20, 1924 to Quintino Silva, and Maria da Conceição Oliveira Silva, in Plymouth, MA. She loved people, all people, the more the Mary-ier. She was very convivial, an avid crocheter, enjoyed bingo, word scramble and would sing along while her brother strummed his guitar. Mary was a cagey little card shark. She kept a Godly and impeccable home. She didn't forget anyone's birthday, always sending a card, and baking a cake if she could. Mary would set a plate for anyone at her table, where there was always something good to eat, and something sweet in the cookie jar. At Christmas time you could count on her homemade fruitcake. Who can forget her meatloaf, or her impossible pie? Who could ever forget her? She will be missed by her entire family and friends. Whether you called her sweetheart, Mimi, Mary, mom, cunhada, comadre, madrinha, tia, grandma, gigi, tortilla; the Lord called her "His good and faithful servant" and called her home. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, her son David Q. Carvalho, brother David Q. Silva, and her granddaughter Sarah Carvalho. Mary is survived by her loving and devoted husband Peter J. Martins; sister Alice Galo (Tolland, CT); children Joseph Carvalho and his wife Cindy (Bolton, CT), Elvira Coffey and her husband Joseph (Coventry, CT), and her daughter-in-law Marilyn Carvalho (Beverly Hills, FL); grandchildren Paul Jones, Melissa Mullally, Darren Jones (Jennifer), Jennifer Carvalho (Nate Strick), Julie Steffenson (Josh), Curtis Harrison (Casmira), Kimberly Baez (Santos), and Jonathan Carvalho (Rhiannon); 2 sisters-in-law, Maria Martins Mendonça and Teresa Martins; niece, Fernanda Carvalho Mendonça;17 great-grandchildren and scores of nieces, nephews, grand, and great-grand nieces and nephews Until later, "Até logo beijinhos," when we meet again at Jesus' feet.
Family will receive friends for Visitation on Monday, January 31, 2022 from 10-11AM, with a Funeral Service beginning at 11AM at Brown Funeral Home & Crematory in Lecanto, FL. Entombment will follow at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Beverly Hills, FL.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Ciarcia, Salvatore S.



Salvatore Sebastian Ciarcia, 88, of Hartford, CT passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. This was a truly unexpected event for Sal and those who knew him, as his plan was to live for another 30 years.
Sal was predeceased by his beloved father Michael Ciarcia, mother Antonina Ciarcia, sister Constance Ciarcia and his long-time girlfriend Geraldine "Gerry" Pagano. Sal worked as a Mechanical Engineer in various companies including Dunham & Bush and Electric Boat. He was raised in New Britain, CT and had a true passion for polka dancing. Among his many interests were gardening, aviation, competitive marksmanship going on nature walks and was a devoted follower of Dr. Hoffman, often sharing his learnings learning about natural medicine with many in the community. Sal will be dearly missed, especially at Sunday dinners and parties by his chosen family, Enid Rey and Freddie Valentin and their five children who loved and cared for him as a grandfather. The Rey-Valentin family wishes to thank all the neighbors on Fairfield Avenue who helped Sal over the years and all of those who offered him friendship and support. Sal especially enjoyed the help and support of the South End Senior Center and the youth from the Hartford Youth Services Corp. at Our Piece of the Pie, Inc., please honor him by donating to these wonderful organizations.
Friends will be received Friday, January 28, 2022 at 10:30am for a mass of Christian burial at Saint Augustine Church, 10 Campfield Ave., Hartford, CT. Burial will follow at Mt. Saint Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Rd., Bloomfield, CT. To share a memory of Salvatore, please visit www.dillonbaxter.com

Dillon-Baxter
FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Stoldt, Curtis A.



Curtis A. Stoldt, 64, of East Hampton, loving husband of Eileen (Sharkey) Stoldt, passed away on January 23, 2022 at Hartford Hospital surrounded by his family due to complications from COVID-19. He was born in Southington, CT to Charles Sr. and Helene (Heintze) Stoldt and grew up in Granby, CT. Curt graduated from Granby Memorial High School in 1976. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX in 1980. Curt was a police officer with East Hartford Police Department for 30 years, retiring as a Lieutenant. He served many roles in the police department, but his passion was the detective division. Curt received numerous awards and commendations during his career, including the Medal of Valor and the 1999 Courage of Connecticut Award. He was a man of compassion, who's insight and commitment to the truth made him exceptional in his service to many communities.
A survivor of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Curt found companionship amongst many. He was a dedicated friend and family man. He was most proud to be a father and shared a unique relationship with each of his daughters. He loved the outdoors, spending much of his free time off-roading in Jeeps, kayaking, hiking, and biking over the years. He successfully thru-hiked the Long Trail in 2014. Curt and Eileen have spent their retirement traveling the US in their RV with their dog, Oscar. His love for animals resulted in many pets, from cats and dogs to hermit crabs and fish. He could never turn down an animal in need, and by hand nursed young wildlife such as a skunk, raccoons, opossums, birds, and squirrels back to health before returning them to nature. A devoted husband and a loving father, he will be dearly missed. Besides his wife, Eileen, he is survived by his daughters: Lindsay Stoldt, of Melrose, MA and Kelly Erin Stoldt of Hempstead, NY, a sister Valerie (Stoldt) Warren and her husband Christopher, of Cardiff, CA. Curt is also survived by his sisters-in-law Linda Henderson and Elizabeth Bidon, his niece Christy (Stoldt) Tweed and her husband Jesse, his nephews Kevin Henderson and his wife Courtney, Patrick Henderson, Craig Henderson, and Michael Bidon. He is also survived by his devoted dog, Oscar.
The Stoldt family extends their gratitude to the Hartford Hospital medical staff of the Bliss 10 Stepdown Unit and the 10th floor Cardiac ICU for their professionalism, compassion, and kindness. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the memorial service will be private and held at the convenience of the family.
In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to either the CT Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at www.lls.org or to Protectors of Animals at www.poainc.org. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

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OBITUARIES

Prouty, Richard Dewing



Richard D. Prouty 91 of Newington, CT passed peacefully on January 14, 2022 with his family at his side. Richard (Dick) was born in MA on October 11,1930 to the late John Abner Prouty & Grace Prouty. He graduated Dean Academy in 1949, & Springfield College receiving both a B.S. & Master's Degree in 1953 & 1958 in Teacher Education & Physical Education; And in 1982 pursued his PHD at Wesleyan University. His teaching/coaching positions included Huntington High School in MA, from 1954-60 where he taught social studies, coached basketball, baseball & soccer while serving as the Director of Athletics & becoming Vice Principal in 1958. In 1960 he continued his career of teaching/coaching for 29 years in the New Britain school system. First, teaching at Pulaski Senior High School where he coached varsity basketball from 1961-74, tennis from 1962-80 & served as Vice Principal from 1967-80. He achieved the Outstanding Coach of the Year award issued by CHSCH in 1976. In 1980 he took the vice principal position at New Britain High School, again while teaching & this time, coaching tennis & girls' soccer. Other interests & accomplishments included serving as a member of CIAC State High School Committee from 1978-88, Director of Class M state tennis tournaments from 1978-84, & a certified swim meet official for Central & Western CT from 1978-87. He was a member of the USTA serving on the N.E. Tournament Committee as well as being ranked as a tennis player himself from 1979-83, holding the Father/Daughter N.E. title in 1979-80. He was an avid athlete who was a fierce competitor on the tennis court, holding many championship titles both locally & nationally. His other passions were his family, friends, coaching/mentoring and a love for U.S. History. He was a Free Mason, but most importantly a Christian who enjoyed his Sunday congregational gatherings. He was a dedicated advocate for St. Jude's Children's Hospital, The Wounded Warriors Project, & The Humane Society - to name a few. A few years after his retirement in 1989, he relocated to the Blue Ridge Mountains in Front Royal, VA. only to come back to CT for the last few years of his life. He is survived by his wife of 65 years - Joanne (McDonald), his daughters - Dorrie Ann Prouty & Virginia Ellen Prouty & his son - Richard Keith Prouty; Also, 4 grandsons, 2 granddaughters, 2 nephews and a niece. There will be a 'Celebration of Life' service at the Plainville Congregational Church to be announced at a later date and he will be laid to rest in Westborough, MA come spring. The family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Hartford Healthcare Home Hospice personnel & affiliates for their kindness and professionalism. Any donations can go to the Humane Society as wished by the widow of the deceased.

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Rankins, Julia Elizabeth (Spencer)



Julia Elizabeth Rankins, 97, of Bloomfield and formerly of Hartsdale, NY, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 23, 2022, in Bloomfield. Born in Millen, GA on December 20, 1924, daughter of the late Cornelius and Annie (Whitehead) Spencer, she was raised in Georgia and had spent most of her life in Hartsdale, NY before moving to Bloomfield to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law in 2003. Julia worked for Sonotone Hearing Aids in White Plains, NY and for the Honeywell Corporation, until her retirement. She was a longtime, faithful member of Grace Episcopal Church in White Plains, NY where she served on the Altar Guild and was a member of a prayer group. While living in Bloomfield, Julia attended St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Hartford with her daughter and son-in-law. In her spare time, she enjoyed doing arts and crafts, making stuffed animals and pillows for her family, and relaxing at her home. She leaves three daughters, Barbara Hammond of Rowlett, TX, Patricia Nelson and her husband Robert of Bloomfield, and Hassana Ali of Charlotte, NC; three grandchildren, Carolyn White and her husband Shedrick of Rowlet, TX, William Jones of Charlotte, NC and Christopher Hammond, Jr. and his wife, Denise of North Las Vegas, NV; her Goddaughter, Karla Taylor of Southport, SC; her dear friend of many years, Carolyn Rodgers of Peekskill, NY; her St. Monica's Church family who loved her dearly; and many great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends. She was predeceased by her first husband, Thomas Jones; a brother, Robert Spencer; a sister, Maude McCullough; and a close friend, Clyde Hicks. Thank you to all of the staff at Seabury in Bloomfield who touched her life in some way. A private graveside service will be held at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Monica's Episcopal Church, Attn: Horace V. Davidson Scholarship Fund, 3575 Main St., Hartford, CT 06120. Carmon Windsor Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences and to view the services on Friday, January 28th at 2 p.m., please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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Katz, Ruth M



Long-time Glastonbury, CT resident, Ruth Moyerman Katz, 92, died peacefully at home in Great Falls VA, on January 15, 2022. Ruth, the daughter of Rosalind and Harry Moyerman, was born and raised in Atlantic City, NJ. She graduated from George Washington University with a degree in Political Science. Following graduation, she moved to Philadelphia and worked in retail as a buyer until her best friend, Shirley, introduced her to Harvey Katz, Shirley's cousin. They were married in Atlantic City, New Jersey and made their first home in Arlington, Virginia while Harvey served as a JAG Officer in the Army. Upon completion of Harvey's military service, they moved back to Connecticut and lived with Harvey's parents and younger brother in the apartments above Katz Hardware. From a small office above the hardware store, Harvey started his law practice. Ruth answered the phones, provided secretarial assistance and a variety of back-office support. She loved sharing a home with her in-laws and found great joy in being part of a warm and fun-loving extended family.

Throughout her life, Ruth enjoyed entertaining family, friends and Harvey's clients. Harvey and Ruth threw parties and hosted dinners regularly. Their daughters' friends were welcomed with open arms and plates of food. In the background, Ruth attended to guests' needs – food, drink or a sympathetic ear. Everyone was welcome in the Katz household. No one ever left without a full stomach.

Community service was an important part of Ruth's life. While raising her family, she continued to volunteer in the Glastonbury School System, political campaigns and Temple Beth Torah Sisterhood. As her children grew, she took a job at the Glastonbury High School office. Her official role was as a secretary, but all the students knew she was the one to go to if they had a problem in school or at home. She was always willing to sit and listen or lend a hand. She was loved by students and faculty.

She remained active in Glastonbury until 2002 when she and Harvey moved to Reston, Virginia to be close to their grandson, Eli. In 2003, she took on her crowning role that brought her tremendous joy, part-time nanny for her grandson. Ruth, aka Dama, and Eli had a ball exploring animal farms, growing vegetables, drawing, playing games and splashing in mud puddles. They cherished their time together and the private jokes they shared.

Ruth will be remembered for her fierce independence, sense of humor, kindness, willingness to listen, deep empathy and love of family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey Katz and her older brother, Robert Moyerman. She will be dearly missed by her daughters, Joan Katz of New York, NY, and Stephanie Katz (Kevin Stanley) of Vienna, VA; her grandson, Eli Katz of Vienna, VA; her nieces, nephews, and cousins; as well as a host of long-time friends from her years in Glastonbury.

A celebration of Ruth's life will be held in the spring in Glastonbury.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to K9forwarriors.org, Goodspeed.org, or a charity of your choice.

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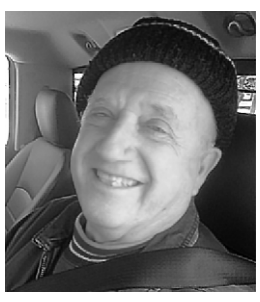
Bergstrom, Lorraine E. (Nelson)

Lorraine Evelyn Bergstrom, 92, of Covenant Living of Cromwell, formerly of Newington, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022. She was the widow of Roy Bergstrom.
Born in Cambridge, MA on December 13, 1929, she was the daughter of the late Andrew and Edith (Anderson) Nelson. Lorraine graduated from Watertown High School and Katharine Gibbs School in Boston, after which she enjoyed begin a secretary from many years. Her strong Christian faith and lifelong involvement in many church activities brought purpose to her life.
She is survived by two daughters and their husbands, Karen and David Larson of Austin, TX and Kristen and Mark Thompson of Middletown; her son and his wife, Mark and Cindy Bergstrom of Mendon, VT; seven grandchildren, Kim and Carl Larson, Lindsay and Travis Bergstrom, Gabrielle, Joshua and Kristina Thompson; and ten great-grandchildren.
A Memorial service will be held at a later time. Memorial donations may be made to Camp Squanto, 2220 West Shore Rd., Swanzey, NH 03446. Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

ERICKSON-HANSEN
New Britain

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Dalo, Vincent



Vincent Dalo, 86, of Rocky Hill died peacefully at home with family gathered around him on Wednesday January 19th, 2022. Born in 1935 he graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1954. He met his wife, Barbara, at a Friendly's Ice Cream store when they were in high school. He served in the Air Force, stationed in England, from 1954 until 1958. After his return they were marred in 1958. They lived in Cromwell and raised 4 children. Vincent worked at Pratt & Whitney until his retirement in 1992. He was a life member of the Cromwell Fire Department and the Knights of Columbus. He participated in many other clubs and on various town councils.
Vinnie and Barb enjoyed their second home they built in Cape Cod MA. There were many happy family gatherings along with boating, riding their Jeep on the sand dunes and biking.
Vinnie was born on May 20, 1935 to the late James and Josephine Dalo. He had one sister, Eleanor Frisk of Cromwell
(predeceased).
His wife Barbara (Wendrychowitz, predeceased) and him were married for 63 wonderful years. They had 4 children. William (predeceased), Robert and his wife Susan of Rocky Hill, Jay and his wife Johanne of Durham and daughter Diane Dalo of Rocky Hill. Along with his children he leaves behind six grandchildren Katharine, Sarah, Josephine, Jonathan, Joshua, Ellen and one great granddaughter Wilhelmina.
There will be a celebration of life at a later time to be determined by the family.

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Skinner King, Phyllis

Due to Saturday's weather conditions the calling hours will be held Friday, January 28th from 9 to 11 am with a Funeral Home Service at 11 am at the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home followed by burial at Elmwood Cemetery. For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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Miller, Burton A

Burton A. Miller, 83, of Newington and West Hartford, CT died peacefully on Sunday (January 23, 2022) knowing how much his family loved him. He was the son of Harry Miller and Julia Stone Miller. He was the devoted husband of Linda Miller for 60 years. He graduated from Weaver High School and loved keeping in touch with his classmates and helping with and going to high school reunions. Burt studied to be a pharmacist at the University of Connecticut, where he was a member of the AZO fraternity. His fraternity brothers continued to be lifelong friends of his. He was the co-owner of Towne Pharmacy in Glastonbury, CT and worked there for over 30 years, serving the community and providing access to care for all of his customers. Burt loved his family, his religion, his country, his friends, UConn basketball, and the Boston Red Sox. His children and grandchildren fondly remember their annual trips to Cape Cod with him and Linda and are grateful for this time that they shared. Burt was a devoted member of B'nai Sholom in Newington and B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom in Bloomfield and coordinated a weekday minyan there for many years. He loved to attend Shabbat and holiday services and always had prayers to share at family gatherings. He loved to read about and discuss Jewish history, United States history, and current events and politics. Burt leaves his loving wife Linda Miller, his brother Alan Miller and his wife Charlotte, of Langhorne, PA, his children Jeffrey Miller, of Newington, CT, Bonnie Schneider and her husband, Eric, of West Hartford, CT, and Steven Miller and his wife Lorena, of Magnolia, DE, his grandchildren Benjamin, Abigail, Jacob, Noah, Cole, and Freddy, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. The funeral will be held graveside at the Congregation B'nai Sholom Cemetery, 1361 Berlin Turnpike, Wethersfield, CT on Thursday 1/27 at 1 pm and will be streamed online. The family will hold virtual shiva minyanim on Thursday and Sunday evenings at 7 pm. For more information, please contact Eric or Weinstein Mortuary. Memorial contributions for Burt can be made to the American Cancer Society, the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, or B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom.

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Martin, Roberta



MADISON, WI – Roberta Martin, age 79, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, with family by her side. Roberta, daughter of Robert and Florence of Manchester, grew up in Connecticut. She married her best friend, Jim Martin, in 1967 and together they raised their daughter, Kimberly in Madison, Wis. Roberta received her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing. She truly enjoyed helping people and was well suited for her calling as a nurse.
Roberta's greatest joy was being a mother, and she created a close-knit, loving family. She was a devoted and proud mother who was always present. Roberta loved to travel and while her journeys took her across the globe, her adventurous spirit was most energized when camping. She was an outgoing person who truly enjoyed connecting with others; from those in her social networks, to those she volunteered with at the Attic Angel Association, Roberta always took a genuine interest in the lives of the people she knew.
Roberta is survived by husband, Jim; daughter, Kimberly; granddaughter, Lauren; sisters, Marilyn and Lois; and countless friends she met and remained close with over the years. Roberta will be remembered for her persistent grace, caring nature, strong will, and determination against all odds. Throughout her brave battle with cancer, she was a force of courage and strength, and she never gave up hope.
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 602 Everglade Drive, Madison, at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, with Father Bart Timmerman and Monsignor Michael Gorman concelebrating. Burial will follow. Visitation will be held at the church from 11:30 a.m. until the start of Mass on Friday.
Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

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Thibault, MarieAnne Gagnon



MarieAnne (Gagnon) Thibault, 91, of Berlin, died Friday (Jan. 21, 2022) at home. Born in Upper Frenchville, ME, the daughter of the late Leonard and Emma (Martin) Gagnon she lived most of her life in New Britain and Berlin. During her career, she was employed for 34 years at the Fafnir Bearing Co. She had been a parishioner of both St. Peter's Church in New Britain and Sacred Heart Church in East Berlin and had been known as an avid bowler. Mrs. Thibault is survived by her husband of 63 years Arthur Thibault, her daughter Jacqueline and her husband Alain Jacques, two grandsons, Kristian and Adam Jacques, a great grandson, Sawyer Jacques, her sisters and brother, Pearl Martin, Rita Dumont, Aline Michaud, Gerald Gagnon and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased three sisters and three brothers, Jeanne Chamberland, Lillian Bussiere, Therese Michaud, Claude Gagnon, Anthony Gagnon and Benoit Gagnon. Funeral services will be held Wednesday (Feb. 2, 2022) with a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM at Divine Providence Parish (St. Peter Church) 98 Franklin Sq. New Britain. Burial will be held at a later date in Quebec, Canada. Visitation will be Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:30 AM at the Farrell Funeral Home 110 Franklin Sq. New Britain. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association 5 Brookside Dr. Wallingford, CT 06492. The family would like to thank the staff of Apple Rehab for their care to Mrs. Thibault. To send a condolence, please visit www.FarrellFuneralHome.com.

FARRELL
FUNERAL HOME

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DellaBitta, Isabelle



Isabelle "Billie" DellaBitta, of Marion Connecticut and Pine Island, Florida, passed away peacefully on Wednesday January 19th 2022 at the age of 94. She was born on January 16, 1928 in Queens, NY, one of 5 girls, to her parents, the late Joseph and Beatrice Leahy. The love of her life Edward DellaBitta predeceased her in 2013. Isabelle is survived by her 3 sisters; Barbara Burkhardt of Southington, CT, Geraldine Fasulo of Florida and Jackie McMann of Florida. She was predeceased by her sister, Patricia Brooks. Isabelle was blessed with a long and full life. She overcame a serious accident as a young girl with determination and a positive attitude that would define her life. Her friends called her Billie; she was a fun and beautiful lady. She loved life and shared it with Edward for over 64 years. She was devoted to him and to her son Tom and daughter Nancy. Together they met all of life's challenges and shared in it's rewards. Billie loved playing golf with her friends at Chippanee Golf Club in Bristol, Connecticut and during her winters at Alden Pines Golf Course in Bokeelia, FL. On one very lucky day at Alden Pines she made a Hole in One. She displayed the plaque of that accomplishment for years to come. Isabelle was a talented artist. Many of her oil paintings are in the homes of her children and grandchildren today. She developed a love and lifelong hobby for collecting antiques and decorated her Marion CT. circa 1802 home. Billie was an active member for many years at the Plantsville Congregational Church. She was an animal lover and always had a favorite dog who she showered her affections on. Isabelle is survived by her son Thomas DellaBitta, and his wife Lynda of Marion CT, her daughter Nancy King and husband Don of Sandwich MA; grandchildren, Thomas DellaBitta Jr. and his wife Ashley and their four children, Alana, Tommy, Anthony and Tristen of Marion CT; Andrea Deluca and her husband Frank and son Frank Jr. of Naples FL; Lindsey King Wasmer and her husband Brandon and their son Bennett of Littleton, MA and John King and Yelena Yegorova of Fort Myers, FL. In her later years while living at the Orchards in Southington, Billie had a loving care giver, Rejoice Anson, who provided her with care and companionship. Our family will be forever grateful for her love and dedication which brought comfort to our entire family. Services will be held privately at the request of the family. Plantsville Funeral Home has been entrusted with handling the arrangements. For online condolences, please visit www.plantsvillefuneralhome.com.

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Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

OBITUARIES

Carlson, Beatrice



Beatrice Irene "Bea" Carlson, 68, of Vernon, formerly of East Hartford, died peacefully on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at Hartford Hospital. She was born in Hartford, CT, on August 23, 1953, daughter of the late John and Irene (Perron) Scarpello. She grew up in East Hartford and attended schools in East Hartford and Manchester. Bea was a talented, enthusiastic cook and had a passion for helping people. She owned and operated Bea's Country Kitchen in Coventry for over 21 years. She would later go to work in the aerospace manufacturing industry at ATI, a job she loved. Along with cooking, Bea enjoyed woodworking, spending time with her family, and helping everyone around her. She had a deep inner strength that inspired everyone who knew her. A kind, caring, loving, and generous woman, she will be dearly missed. She leaves her two sons, John E. Morton of Fall River, MA and his fiancée Melissa Woodward, and Jason E. Morton of Orleans, VT and his fiancée Daphne Varekamp; her sister, Marguerite "Peggy" Couture of Andover; her brother, John Marchese of Maine; her grandson, Brandon Federico of Chicago, IL; and two nieces, Cynthia Couste of Windham, and Melissa Carter of Arizona. She was predeceased by her sister, Jacqueline LaBier. Calling hours will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022, from 4-6 p.m., at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor. For online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON Community Funeral Homes

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Eckert, Lucille (Della Camera)



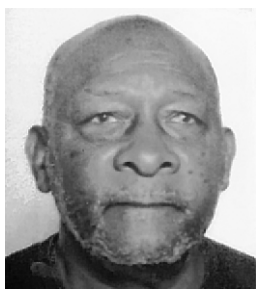
Lucille (Della Camera) Eckert, 76, of Bristol, passed away Saturday (January 15, 2022) at Bristol Hospital. Born in Waterbury, daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Piccolo) Della Camera. A former Plainville and Southington resident, Lucille resided in Bristol for the last 25 years. Lucille worked for the State of Connecticut/ DMR for over 20 years, retiring in 2006.

Surviving is the light of her life, her grandson, Michael J. Eckert of Burlington; a step granddaughter, Ashlyn Davidson; a daughter-in-law, Stacey Albert all of Burlington; a sister, Josephine Galullo of Watertown; a brother, Stephen Della Camera and his wife Leila of FL; a nephew, Paul Galullo of OR; a nephew, Tom Galullo of IN; and special friend Amy McPherson of Bristol. Lucille was predeceased by her son, Michael Joseph Eckert in 2012 and by a sister, Teresa.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 12 at 12 noon at South Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain, CT. Masks must be worn. There are no calling hours. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

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Jackson, Leslie I.



Leslie Irving Jackson, 82, of Hartford passed away on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 in St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. He was the beloved husband of Myrtle Jackson.

He was born on September 14, 1939, in Orangefield St. Catherine Jamaica and was the son of the late Ferdinand Jackson and Eva Johnson.

Leslie migrated to Hartford in 1979 where he resided for 42 years. He worked for Capital Cleaning upon retirement in 2020. He enjoyed playing Dominos every Saturday with his friends and shopping at Copaco Shopping Center. He loved more than anything spending time with his granddaughters.

He was a warm and friendly man that never had anything negative to say about anyone. He was well loved by his co-workers and friends.

Leslie leaves behind his three daughters, Sandra Jackson, Maxine Jackson and Luette Brown, all of Bloomfield; stepsons, Steve Lowe of Windsor, Everton Gordon of Bloomfield, Howard Mighty of East Hartford and Owen Mighty of Windsor; sister, Myrtle Brown; brothers, Renford Jackson and Stedman Jackson both of Orangefield, St. Catherine, Jamaica; granddaughters, Nicole Jackson of Bloomfield and Andreen Blake of Chicopee, MA; great grandchildren, Abigail, Jalin and Taylor and a host of family and friends in Orangefield, St. Catherine, Jamaica.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life in Leslie's hometown of St. Catherine Jamaica will be held at a later date private to his family. Cremation Society of CT in Windsor has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit www.cremationct.com

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Wilcox, Virginia C (Boutwell)



Virginia (Boutwell) went home to be with Jesus, her Savior, on Monday night, January 17, 2022, after a brief battle with stomach cancer. She was born on April 23, 1944. Virginia grew up in Windsor Locks, CT and resided in Manchester, CT for many years, where she graduated from Manchester High School with her GED. She is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, Frank Wilcox. Virginia grew up in Windsor Locks, CT and resided in Manchester, CT for many years, where she graduated from Manchester High School with her GED. She moved to Ellington, CT in 2004. Virginia enjoyed spending time with her family and loved ones. She also enjoyed sketching and painting, as well as gardening and spending time outdoors. In addition to her husband, Virginia is survived by her daughters, Victoria (Frederickson) Miller and, her husband, Darren Miller, of Vernon, CT; Virginia Frederickson and, her husband, Matthew Abisamra, of Atlanta, GA; and Mary (Frederickson) Holmes and, her husband, Christopher Holmes, of Middleborough, MA. She is also survived by her brother, Newell Boutwell, Jr. and, his wife, Susanne Boutwell, of Windsor Locks, CT, as well as her sisters, Gloria Fazio, of Bristol, CT and Barbara Gemme and, her husband, Maurice Gemme, of Naples, Maine. Virginia also has three grandchildren: Alaina and Kristen Miller; and Eve Holmes, as well as nieces, nephews and extended family. She was predeceased by her parents, Alberta Johnson and Newell Boutwell, as well as by her brother, David Boutwell. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions, in Virginia's name, may be made to Lighthouse Network.org. Online condolences may be made at abbeycremation.com or legacy.com.

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Kester, Jervis D.



Jervis D. Kester, 88, of Bloomfield, CT, passed away at Hartford Hospital on December 31, 2021. Born July 15, 1933, Jerry was raised on a wheat ranch in Lind, Washington, the oldest son of Anne and George Kester. After earning a B.S. in mechanical engineering at Washington State University, and while completing his ROTC service in the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps, he started his 36-year career at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in 1956.

In 1960 Jerry joined Pratt's Sound Group, charged with creating the design innovations necessary for the company's JD3D engine to comply with jet-aircraft noise restrictions newly imposed by the U.S. Government. After a short stint on Pratt's Instrumentation Group, he managed the company's Motion & Vibration Group, overseeing structural tests on fuel cells produced for the Apollo space program. Advancing to senior project engineer in the late 1960s, Jerry headed Pratt's Acoustics Group, spearheading development of the innovative JT9D, which would power Boeing's twin-aisle 747 "jumbo jet" that first took to the skies in 1970. During the early 1980s, while earning his M.B.A., he oversaw the development of Pratt's PW4000 engines.

After retiring in 1992, Jerry enjoyed many round-the-world travels with his wife Maureen, a former teacher, and also volunteered his expertise as a financial planner. At age 68, he rekindled his childhood love of art and studied oil painting at the West Hartford Art League, Farmington Valley Art Center, and Art League of New Britain. During the decades Jerry and Maureen resided in The Villages, Florida, he continued painting and exhibited his work at local art shows.

Leaving behind his cherished wife, Maureen (Glynn) Kester, as well as daughters Pamela and Caroline Kester, sister-in-law Margaret Glynn, and several grand- and great-grandchildren, Jerry will be sorely missed: a source of intelligence, wisdom, and enduring patience. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

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Ridgeway, Teresa



Teresa Drivdahl Ridgeway, 85, of Chaplin died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on January 3, 2022. She was born on Mother's Day May 10, 1936 to Margaret (Lamach) and Emil Drivdahl of Big Timber, Montana. Her father was a sheep rancher and she began life on a homestead in the foothills of the Crazy Mountains and attended grade school in a one room schoolhouse. She graduated from Sweet Grass County High School where she excelled in academics, was selected to attend Montana Girl's State, and was editor of the school newspaper. Growing up and throughout high school, Teresa participated in 4-H; she enjoyed all the activities but especially enjoyed showing sheep in the county fair where she once won grand champion showmanship. Teresa attended the University of Montana where she received a B.A. in English with a minor in French. While in college, she lived in the Synadelphic House where she met many lifelong friends. She also joined the Lutheran student group, gained an appreciation for the arts with her friends' self-named group the Culture Vultures, and found a passion for skiing. After college, Teresa began teaching in Kalispell, MT and later taught in Fife, Washington. During this time she skied whenever she could. Teresa was generally up for an adventure and decided to take a job teaching English in Cambodia. After several years of teaching and many travels around the region, she met Hallas Ridgeway (originally from Connecticut) who was a civil engineer building roads with the Federal Highways. After a short courtship, they married. They lived for about a year in Cambodia and Laos, before returning to the states (Connecticut) for 2 years where Teresa taught at Coventry High School before Hal was sent to Brazil. A year later their first child, Lesley, was born. They once again returned to the U.S. and spent a year in Washington DC, where their second child Benton was born. When Hal decided to go to UConn, the Ridgeway's bought their current home in Chaplin, CT where their third child, Kristoffer was born. In the barn of the house, they found a large old loom and this began a new passion for Teresa, weaving. This worked well with being able to stay at home with the kids. She was ever the teacher from teaching fellow weavers to school children and an Autistic woman later in life how to weave. Teresa was an artist throughout her life. She became the first Master Weaver in the Connecticut Handweavers Guild and has had pieces displayed at the Universities of Connecticut and of Montana. She also did some spinning of wool from the sheep and dying of her own yarn. Early on she learned crocheting and embroidery from her grandmother and in college knitting. She made many beautiful sweaters for friends and family. In addition, Teresa enjoyed keeping sheep and goats and gardening. Many of her flowers would end up on the alter at church. Teresa had a strong relationship with God and was an active member at Chaplin Congregational and later Windham Center Congregational Church. Teresa and Hal enjoyed being active and traveling. They would cross-country ski and hike. Teresa also enjoyed biking and walking with friends. They drove and camped across the U.S. several times with and without children while visiting friends and relatives. They also traveled overseas, returning to Cambodia as well as taking trips to Indonesia, Hong Kong, Norway, England, and Portugal. Teresa was predeceased by her husband Hal and her brother David and is survived by her children Lesley Sweeney and her husband Steve of Mansfield, Benton Ridgeway and his wife Cristina of Plymouth, and Kristoffer Ridgeway and his wife Charlene of Simsbury, grandchildren Emily, Erin, Ryan, Theodore, Samantha, Noah, and Isaiah, her brothers Emil of Seattle Washington, John and his wife Sylvia of Denton, Montana, and Martin and his wife Suzanne of Helena, Montana, and many beloved nieces, nephews and cousins. A joint memorial service for Teresa and Hal will be held on May 14 at the First Congregational Church of Windham, 4 Windham Center Rd, Windham, CT and will be followed by an outdoor reception at their home in Chaplin. For an online memorial guestbook, please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

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Guthrie-Wheatly, Blossom Lileith



Blossom Lileith Guthrie-Wheatly, 73, of Bloomfield, CT entered into eternal rest on Saturday, January 22, 2022. Blossom was born to the late Hubert Henry and Mable Henry in Saint Elizabeth, JA, on July 4, 1948.

A celebration of life for Blossom will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 10:00am with a calling hour from 9:00am – 10:00am at Howard K. Hill Funeral Services, 94 Granby St., Bloomfield, CT 06002. Interment will be held at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002. To leave a message of comfort for the Guthrie-Wheatly family, view the full obituary and livestreaming of services, please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com

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St. Jean, Richard A. "Dick"



On Monday January 24, 2022, God welcomed Dick St. Jean into heaven. Richard A. St. Jean Sr. was a young 85 years old at his passing. He was comforted by his loving family prior to his passing. Dick lived in Estero, FL with his wife Marilyn since 2010. He was also a long-time resident of Avon, CT, where he and Gabrielle St. Jean (deceased) raised their two boys Rick and Rob St. Jean.

Dick was born May 5, 1936, in New Bedford, MA to the late Albert and Betty (Pepin) St. Jean. He served his country in the United States Air Force Reserves as well as the Air National Guard. His career was spent as the owner of a mechanical contracting company before retiring in 1995. When working, Dick was an active leader in Rotary International and earned the distinction of being a Paul Harris Fellow.

Dick was a protector and adored his wife Marilyn and the love and care they have been able to enjoy for the past 24 years. The two frequently traveled to be close to their family; Dick especially loved his time in Southern Vermont watching his grandchildren Maggie and Matthew grow up. Dick was an avid tennis player, to the point where he refused to play any other sport. He was known for his crushing lefty forehand. He was a great sport enthusiast who faithfully watched his favored Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots, without missing many games.

During his lifetime, Dick traveled the world - he especially loved Bermuda where he found peace and relaxation. He treasured his many adventures around the world and enjoyed sharing photographs and stories of past memories with anyone willing to lend an ear. Dick was a sentimental man with a kind heart. He took pride in everything he and his family accomplished over the years. His death has reminded us all of the importance of family and he has left a light for all those he loved in his life to continue on his legacy.

Dick is survived by his loving, caring and devoted wife of 24 years, Marilyn S. (Goldstein) St. Jean; his two boys and their families; Rick, Nancy, Maggie and Matthew St. Jean of Concord, MA, and Robert, Valerie, Andy and Bryant St. Jean of Avon, CT; and his stepsons and their families; Jeffrey, Natalie, Sloane, Presley, and Emelia Schwartz of Coral Gables, FL, and Adam, Jennifer and AJ Schwartz of Lyons, CO.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, January 28, 2022, at 11:00 AM at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 28300 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34134. A reception to celebrate his life will follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Dick's name may be made to the United States Tennis Association's Foundation which enables under resourced youth to begin playing tennis www.ustafoundation.com/donate/ .

Online condolences may be offered by visiting www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

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Tyc, Dorothy (Prue)



Dorothy (Prue) Tyc, 101, of Rockfall, formerly of Portland, wife of the late Edward Adam Tyc, died Tuesday January 25, 20022 at Middlesex Hospital. Dorothy was born Newport, NH, daughter of the late, Adelard and Blanche (Hudon) Prue. Prior to her retirement she was employed with the Portland School System as a teacher's aide, a job she truly loved. Dorothy is survived by a daughter, Susan Bradley and her husband John of Rockfall; a son, Peter Tyc and his wife Diane of Rockfall; five grandchildren, Dan (Kaitlin) Bradley, Lauren Bradley, Lisa (Giuseppe) Diglio, Steven (Caitlin) Tyc, Nicholas Tyc and his fiancée, Adrianna Foreman; two great grandchildren, Nate and Matthew Bradley; sister, Lorraine Swenson of North Carolina; brother Robert (Shirley) Prue of Florida, also many nieces and nephews. Dorothy was predeceased by her daughter, Nancy Tyc, and eight brothers and four sisters. Her Funeral Liturgy will be he Friday January 28th at 10 a.m. at St Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery, in Portland. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be sent to Middlefield Volunteer Fire Company or the Levi Coe Library Fund, at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County 49 Main St., Middletown, CT 06457. Please specify in memo which fund. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
JOHN H DEMPSEY



1/27/1939 - 2/15/2015

"The trouble is, you think you have time." Always in our hearts.

In Loving Memory Of
KELLY PARKER



I love you Kel
You will forever be the moon and stars
Steve

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Manchester cuts ties with Parkade developer

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — The town of Manchester has ended a relationship with developers who promised a $190 million rebirth of the Broad Street side of the Manchester Parkade, saying the partners moved too slowly on the long-awaited, mixed-use project.

One of the developers, however, said it's not over and the town should prepare for a court battle.

Announced Tuesday afternoon, the end of the town's deal with Manchester Parkade I means the redevelopment agency returns to a clear slate for the town-owned land on Broad Street, officials said.

"Unfortunately, while we have worked together in good faith," Mayor Jay Moran said, "the developer has struggled to move the project forward. We were hopeful we could work out a new agreement after the original development agreement expired, but it is now clear that the project as envisioned was not progressing as we had hoped."

Developer Michael Licamele, however, said he and partner Harry Freeman were "ready, willing and able" to move forward with a project that promised to become the town's third largest taxpayer within the next seven years. Also, Licamele noted all the planning that has been done along with his personal investment of $1.29 million and said, "it will be years until anyone gets to the point where we were. ... It just really makes no sense."

"This has got to be the most monumental, colossal mistake by the town of Manchester, possibly in the history of the town," Licamele said.

Turn to Parkade, *Page 2*

"This has got to be the most monumental, colossal mistake by the town of Manchester, possibly in the history of the town."

— Developer Michael Licamele



Executive director Jan Young goes through donated food, which is mostly distributed to Connecticut pantries and soup kitchens. The eventual goal, she said, is to distribute $30 million worth of food each year throughout New England. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

Help for the hungry

Food bank's New England hub serves Connecticut pantries and soup kitchens from its new Manchester warehouse

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

MANCHESTER — Leading a tour of Midwest Food Bank's Manchester warehouse Wednesday, Jan Young stopped at a giant cardboard box that was bowed from the weight of soup cans, sweet peas and other nonperishables.

"This is a gold mine!" the food bank's executive director said.

The regional distributor of donated food has launched operations after moving last year into the former Mustangs Unlimited location at West Middle Turnpike and Adams Street. The New England hub is the latest addition to the global organization's facilities in several states, Kenya and Haiti.

Food comes into Manchester by the truckload and is distributed to soup kitchens, pantries and other charitable outfits, mostly in Connecticut, Young said. The eventual goal, she said, is to distribute $30 million worth of food each year throughout New England.

The coronavirus pandemic spotlighted food insecurity in

Turn to Warehouse, *Page 2*



Volunteers Joe Koch, left, and Brent Carland sort food inside the warehouse. The food bank has only three paid employees and is run mostly by volunteers.

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Weekly test positivity at 12.24%

Rate dips to lowest point in 3 weeks; hospitalizations decrease by 100 patients

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's COVID-19 metrics continued to decline on Wednesday, as the state's hospitalizations and weekly test positivity rate fell to their lowest points in more than three weeks.

"Infection rate is down a little bit, 10.9%," Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday morning at a Puerto Rican bakery in New Britain. "More importantly, hospitalizations are down another hundred. So I really think we're bending the curve."

At the bakery and a nearby restaurant, Lamont and Department of Public Health staffers delivered stacks of rapid COVID-19 tests and face masks to employees, so that they could distribute them to customers.

Dave Reyes, the director of state and local outreach for DPH, said that the department has been partnering with houses of worship and local establishments across the state to put rapid tests directly in residents' hands.

"Not everybody drives up to a testing center," Lamont said. "We have to bring the masks, we have to bring the tests, to where people are."

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut on Tuesday reported 2,795 new COVID-19 cases out of 25,568 tests, for a daily positivity rate of 10.93%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 12.24%, the lowest it has been since Dec. 28.

Still, all eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Wednesday, Connecticut had 1,346 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, a decrease of 100 since Tuesday and the lowest the metric has been since early January.

"Right now we're seeing decline in community level of transmission, and our hospitalizations also seem to be declining

Turn to Virus, *Page 2*

Affordable apartments for seniors to replace Knights of Columbus building in Berlin

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Twenty years after buying the closed Knights of Columbus hall, Berlin is on the brink of using the property for a new multimillion-dollar senior housing complex.

The state recently awarded $193,000 toward the cost of demolishing the building, and the Housing Authority is arranging financing to do construction in 2023.

The result will be 50 apartments for senior citizens. The project won't be restricted to current Berlin residents, but they are expected to make up the vast majority of potential tenants.

That would be a major benefit in a community with many older residents holding onto single-family houses because they can't afford market rate rents, Housing Authority Chairman Joseph Bajorski said Monday.

"We maintain 70 (senior) apartments in town, and we currently have

Turn to Apartments, *Page 2*



The long-vacant Knights of Columbus hall in Berlin will be razed for senior housing. **DON STACOM/HARTFORD COURANT**

Police: Fentanyl found in room of child who died

Courant staff report

About 100 bags of fentanyl were allegedly found in the bedroom of a Hartford child who died this month after overdosing on the drug at school, police said late Tuesday.

In a release Tuesday evening, police said that a search warrant was executed at the juvenile's residence, revealing "approximately 100 additional bags of fentanyl," which was "packaged in the same manner as the bags located at the (Sport and Medical Sciences Academy school), had the same identifying stamp, and tested at an even higher purity level" of 60%.

Police said they had found nearly 40 bags of fentanyl stashed in multi-

Turn to Fentanyl, *Page 2*

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CLIP AND SAVE

Man dies after being hit by truck

Second pedestrian death in 3 days in Waterbury

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A man died after being hit by a box truck Wednesday morning in Waterbury, police said. It was the city's second pedestrian death in three days.

The collision happened shortly before 9:40 a.m. at East Main and North Elm streets, police said. A 2019 Freightliner box truck struck the man, who was rushed to Saint Mary's Hospital. The man, who was 68, was pronounced dead at 10 a.m.

The truck driver remained at the scene and is cooperating with police, who said they continue to investigate.

About 12:15 a.m. Sunday, a 60-year-old man was struck by a car on Thomaston Avenue, also in Waterbury. The man, later identified as Richard Ranslow, was taken to Waterbury Hospital, where he died.

Lt. Ryan Bessette had no details about how police believe the crashes happened.

Anyone who has information about either pedestrian's death is asked to call the Waterbury Police Department Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU) 203-346-3975.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Virus

from Page 1

statewide, including here at UConn," Dr. David Banach, an epidemiologist at UConn Health said Wednesday. "That's encouraging."

Hospital officials say some patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant COVID-19 symptoms. According to the state, 53.7% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths on Thursdays. Last week, the state reported 241 deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,683.

COVID-19 deaths — which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks — have continued to increase in recent weeks even as cases and hospitalizations have slowed. Unvaccinated people in Connecticut have been about 14 times as likely to die from COVID-19 in recent weeks as those who are vaccinated, according to state numbers.

The U.S. has now recorded 874,002 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Tuesday, 92.1% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 76.3% of all residents and 84.7% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 49.9% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.



Midwest Food Bank has opened a new facility in Manchester. The regional food bank collects and distributes donated food in New England. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

Warehouse

from Page 1

Connecticut as thousands of people lined up for Foodshare's distribution at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, where the organization gave out more than 6 million meals in 10 months.

One in nine people in Hartford and Tolland counties are food insecure, meaning they lack consistent access to adequate nourishment, according to Foodshare. Across the nation in 2020, according to Midwest Food Bank's latest annual report, 50.4 million households were food insecure and one in five Americans turned to pantries or other charitable outfits for donated food.

Young stressed that Midwest Food Bank collaborates with Foodshare and and other distributors and is not in competition. Midwest gets most of its donations from big companies such as Kellogg's, which may have made too much of one product, or have a particular product that did not sell well or food approaching a "sell by" date that is still safe for consumption.

The 55,000-square-foot Manchester facility is split into a 19,000-square-foot community room, where volunteers box items for pantries, and the warehouse, where floor-to-ceiling steel racks hold pallets of food, beverages, cleaning supplies and other items.

One pallet, for example, held 18 cases of Frosted Flakes. Another held 960 pounds of microwaveable rice, and another was stacked with 22 cases of Pringles potato crisps.

With an annual budget of $1.2 million and only three paid staffers, Young said the operation depends on volunteers. The Manchester operation's commercially licensed tractor-trailer drivers and certified forklift operators are volunteers, as are the people who sort and pack items for distribution to agencies such as Manchester Area Conference of Churches and Charities.

Joe Koch of Ellington, a member of Midwest Food Bank New England's advisory board, volunteers daily. Koch, 67, said he retired recently as vice president of marketing for Country Pure Foods, so he knows the food industry.

He and Young said the Manchester warehouse has started taking perishable items, which are stored in three 40-foot long refrigerated containers. The warehouse also has boxes of donated cleaning supplies and other non-food items, even socks.

Renovations estimated to cost $500,000 are ongoing. Young said plans are to install offices, a conference room and a warming kitchen that will be open to businesses, churches and other organizations. The open door policy is meant to make the food bank an integral part of the community, Young said.

Midwest Food Bank's stated mission is "to share the love of Christ by alleviating hunger and malnutrition locally and throughout the world and providing disaster relief; all without discrimination."

Total revenue in 2020 was about $420 million, and about $383 million worth of food was distributed, according to the annual report. Besides food pantries, the organization also distributes disaster relief and runs special programs focused on feeding children.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.



Joe Koch sorts food inside the Midwest Food Bank's new 55,000-square-foot facility in Manchester.

Fentanyl

from Page 1

ple locations within the school in a search prompted after the student overdosed.

"We can confidently say that the fentanyl that caused the overdose was the same fentanyl that was located in the juvenile's bedroom," police said in the release. "At this time, we have found no evidence that anyone other than the deceased juvenile brought the fentanyl to school."

Police said the investigation into how the juvenile came into possession of the fentanyl remains ongoing. The teen has not been identified because of his age.

The student, a seventh grader at the Sport and Medical Sciences Academy school, died Jan. 15, two days after ingesting the drug, which subsequent tests confirmed to be fentanyl, police spokesperson Lt. Aaron Boisvert previously said.

"We will be taking custody of the fentanyl from the DEA to complete additional testing, which will include fingerprints and DNA testing, in an attempt to identify the person who the deceased juvenile procured these bags from," Boisvert said in the release.

Boisvert said they have identified a "person of interest" in the case but "cannot label him a suspect at this point." The person was not named by police.

Boisvert said the juvenile's "mother has been interviewed and has been fully cooperative with this investigation," noting that investigators "have no evidence to support her having any prior knowledge of her son's possession of the fentanyl."

The fentanyl from the school and the fentanyl recovered from the juvenile's bedroom were collected by the DEA, Boisvert said. "This was done so that the DEA lab could expedite the testing process. The fentanyl that was tested by the DEA., which was previously disclosed as having the extremely high purity level (58% pure), was a sample tested from the approximately 40 bags located at the school."

Boisvert said the investigation remains active and ongoing. Anyone with any information regarding the case is asked to call the HPD Tip Line at 860-722-TIPS (8477).

Parkade

from Page 1

He and Freeman likely will challenge the town's decision in court, Licamele said. Their attorney told them that their agreement with the town is still in effect, despite what town officials say, Licamele said.

But town officials said they were looking forward.

"I am confident that the redevelopment agency will go back to work and identify a new developer to move this project forward," Moran said.

The town and Manchester Parkade I signed a development agreement in April 2021, which was subsequently twice extended, but lapsed prior to the developer securing the necessary financing to close on the property, town officials said. The recent changes in market conditions and slow project pace required town leaders to carefully consider options, according to a news release.

"The town and RDA recognize and share the community's frustration with these timing delays and are eager to move forward in delivering progress on the Parkade site," General Manager Steve Stephanou said. "In the coming weeks, we expect to announce next steps for the development of the site."

Voters approved an $8 million bond issue in 2009 to redevelop the 148-acre Broad Street Redevelopment Area, which includes the approximately 23-acre development site. Since then, the town has purchased and demolished a blighted shopping plaza, bought and demolished former automotive businesses on the other side of Broad Street, completed a $5 million reconstruction of Broad Street, and bought and torn down a vacant restaurant to open a connection between Center Springs Park and the redevelopment area.

In the summer of 2019, town leaders chose Licamele, owner of a New Milford-based development company, and Freeman, a former economic development leader in Hartford and Windsor, as the site developers. On the recommendation of the redevelopment agency, the board of directors voted unanimously to enter into a memo of understanding with Manchester Parkade I, one of three groups that responded to the town's request for proposals.

The purchase price of the town-owned site, according to an agreement with the developers that the board of directors approved, was $1.7 million.

Development of the estimated $180-$190 million development was to be done in phases. The first phase, estimated to cost $80 million, included infrastructure for the entire site and four buildings — an apartment building with 180 units, a 26,000-square-foot office building, a mixed-use building with 12,000 square feet of retail space on the first floor and 24 apartments in two floors above and an 18,000-square-foot "ghost kitchen," a commercial kitchen that would be available for rent.

In separate interviews on Friday, Licamele and Freeman spoke as if the project was alive. They said work on roads, parking lots and utilities would begin in the spring. The partners also said they had worked out a financing snag with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Licamele said town officials informed the partners this week that the town was terminating the agreement, which he said "was a complete shock to us."

"They've decided on their own that the project wasn't moving forward," he said.

"While we are disappointed to end our relationship with Manchester Parkade I," redevelopment agency Chairman Aaron Wlochowski said, "the RDA has always worked in the best interest of the town and its taxpayers. We have stayed true to the original redevelopment plan and bond fund approval.

"We thank Manchester Parkade I for their work on this project and wish their development team well," Wlochowski said.

"The town anticipates renewed development interest in the site," the town news release said. "Staff will be working with the RDA to develop a development strategy to take advantage of the current market."

"This is an attractive opportunity for a developer to create a signature project at an excellent location in an established market," planning and economic development Director Gary Anderson said. "While we regret that we are unable to proceed with the current development group, I'm confident that the hard work of the RDA and town staff will lead to a positive outcome for the community and Broad Street."

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com.

Apartments

from Page 1

50 people waiting. Our wait list is closed," Bajorski said. "So we anticipate there will be a waiting list for the new property as well. There's a significant demand for affordable housing options.

"We have seniors in town who can't afford to rent in this market, so they're staying in their properties for much too long. We have single people in 2,000-square-foot range homes with no viable option to go anywhere and downsize," he said.

The Housing Authority's plan is to build two three-story buildings along Percival Avenue with a substantial investment in green energy.

Bajorski anticipates that demolition, construction and all related costs will be in the $26 million to $33 million range, and will develop a more precise budget before going to bid in the summer.

Gov. Ned Lamont's administration awarded the $193,000 grant as part of a statewide brownfields remediation program. State Sen. Rick Lopes and Berlin's legislative delegation credited the department of economic and community development for the money.

"Building affordable housing for our seniors has been a sought-after goal of numerous community members in Berlin," said Lopes, co-chair of the General Assembly's housing committee and a vice chairman of its aging committee. "This new funding will be a big help in getting this project off the ground."

Town records show the Knights of Columbus completed the 12,000-square-foot meeting hall in 1962. The building was out of use by the time Berlin paid $575,000 for it 40 years later.

The Housing Authority began discussing the property as a senior housing site in 2011, and started planning in 2014, Bajorski said. But funding has been an obstacle all along.

The Planning and Zoning Commission initially approved the project in 2015, and unanimously agreed last June to renew that approval.

The Housing Authority will demolish the building and use its 5 acres — along with an adjacent 3-acre parcel — for the new apartment complex.

The new complex will be a mix of one- and two-bedroom apartments.

A schedule of rents hasn't been set yet, but Bajorski expects there will be multiple tiers targeted to those who earn only a small percent of the region's average income, tenants who can afford a larger percentage and those who can pay market rate.

"We're looking at Berlin people who have spent their entire adult lives in this community. They have churches and routines, they don't want to move to another community," he said.

While empty-nester retirees on fixed incomes remain in single-family homes better suited to young families, they often cannot pay for maintenance because their budgets are stretched to cover utilities, insurance and taxes, he said.

The Housing Authority wants to finalize funding plans by June and seek contractors to begin site work in late fall, with most construction targeted for 2023.

CONNECTICUT

Felon surrenders to SWAT officers at Wethersfield motel, police say

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Two teams of heavily armed officers swarmed a Wethersfield motel Tuesday to take into custody a convicted felon wanted on kidnapping charges, police said.

Edward Casares, 42, whose last known address was on Roger Street in Hartford, eventually surrendered, they said. His charges included two counts of kidnapping, risk of injury to a child and third-degree assault. He was in custody on $150,000 bail at the West Hartford Police Department early Wednesday and was scheduled to appear in Superior Court in Hartford later in the day.

According to police, about 10:20 a.m. Tuesday, dispatchers got a call from a woman who said Casares was in Room 131 at Motel 6, 1341 Silas Deane Highway. Officers learned that West Hartford police had a warrant for Casares' arrest on a kidnapping charge.

Casares would not cooperate with officers, police said. Based on that, the severity of the charges and the possibility he was armed, police called the Capitol Region Emergency Services team. West Hartford police said they sent their Emergency Services Unit as well.

CREST negotiators talked to Casares and took him into custody about 12:50 p.m., police said. No injuries were reported.

In December, West Hartford police said, Casares assaulted an adult and drove away with the victim and a juvenile, both of whom he knows. Due to the nature of the case and the child's age, police declined to release further information about the alleged crime.

In addition to the kidnapping, risk of injury and assault charges, Casares was charged with second-degree breach of peace and operation while under suspension, police said.

Casares has seven convictions in state court from 2012-2019, the most recent for criminal possession of a firearm, a Class C felony, judicial records show. He was sentenced to seven years in prison, suspended after two, followed by three years of probation for the gun crime.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

CONNECTICUT WEATHER FORECAST

Big snowstorm may arrive at end of week

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Connecticut might get whacked with a big snowstorm this weekend, meteorologists say.

When will the storm hit?

It will arrive Friday night into Saturday, although we might get a tiny preview Friday afternoon with snow showers or flurries, says Gary Lessor, chief meteorologist with the Connecticut Weather Center at Western Connecticut State University. Friday's high temperature will be 30-35 degrees.

The snow will come from a cold front that will move in off the coast overnight Friday and stall, Lessor says.

How much snow will we get?

Meteorologists can't say for sure how much snow we'll get. Different models have vastly different predictions, Lessor says, with the European model forecasting more than 2.5 feet of snow in eastern Connecticut. Other models predict much less.

"The European model basically has blizzard conditions possible throughout most of the state," he says. That model forecasts 31 inches of snow in Groton, 24 inches in Willimantic, 16 inches in Hartford and New Haven and 11 inches in Danbury.

If that model is correct, Lessor says, "This has the potential to be the biggest storm in Connecticut since the Feb. 8-9, 2013 blizzard." That storm dumped more than 2 feet of snow around the state — more than 3 feet in Hamden.

But while the European model expects the storm to move faster toward New England, the U.S. model puts the storm farther to the east and predicts much less snow.

Under that model, central Connecticut would get only 3-7 inches of snow, and the eastern part of the state would get 8-12 inches.

The U.S. model calls for 10 inches of snow in Groton, 8 inches in Willimantic, 5 inches in Hartford and New Haven and only 2 inches in Danbury, Lessor says.

The Canadian model is forecasting a little bit more snow.

"There's enough variation that it's really a little premature to nail down," he says. "It has to do with where the storm tracks."

Will it be a windy storm?

Yes, Lessor says. Peak gusts will reach 35-45 mph inland, and 50-55 mph along the shore.

AccuWeather meteorologists say the strong winds could lead to power outages.

Are power companies and plow truck drivers ready?

"DOT's ready," Gov. Ned Lamont said Wednesday morning in New Britain, though he added, "You're more ready for 8 inches than you are for 18 inches."

Lamont said he had been in communication with Eversource Energy, too, to ensure that the electric company was prepared for the approaching storm.

"We've had outages before," he said. "I want to make sure we're right ahead of the curve to get these cleaned up. It's 10 degrees outside. People can't go without their power, can't go without their electricity."

What kind of snow will fall?

"Light and fluffy, no disagreement" among meteorologists, Lessor says.

How does Thursday look?

Thursday will be sunny, with late-day clouds. The high will be in the mid-to-upper20s, although parts of the shoreline could reach 30.

Courant staff writer Eliza Fawcett contributed to this report.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Stamford man pleads guilty to stealing millions in COVID-19 relief loans

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A real estate developer from Stamford pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to charges that he stole millions of dollars in emergency COVID-19 relief loans and spending tens of thousands of it on pricey automobiles and rent on his luxury apartment.

Moustapha Diakhate, who had defaulted in the past on a real estate development loan, applied for a total of about $4 million in Paycheck Protection Program loans in 2020 and 2021, but received a lesser amount after the banks involved in the program froze bank accounts after suspecting fraud, federal prosecutors said.

As part of his guilty plea, Diakhate agreed to restitution.

The forgivable PPP loans were authorized by Congress to enable businesses affected by the pandemic to retain employees and cover other authorized expenses. Prosecutors said state and federal employment and tax records show that none of the business entities Diakhate used to apply for loans had employees.

Diakhate, who once listed his address as Hamden, tried to develop an old mill complex in Ansonia in 2013, but lost the project after defaulting on a loan four years later.

Diakhate could face close to six years in prison and a fine under the sentencing guidelines used in federal court.

Federal prosecutors said Diakhate spent $50,000 or more on back rent on his apartment and more on three automobiles — a Porsche, a BMW and a Mercedes Benz.



Tapas, which has been a fixture in the Hartford-area dining scene since 1986, will close its location at 854 Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield on Saturday. **TAPAS**

Tapas Greek restaurant in Bloomfield to close

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Tapas restaurant, a fixture in the Hartford-area dining scene since 1986, will close its location at 854 Cottage Grove Road in Bloomfield on Saturday.

The restaurant is losing its lease, Zach Vetter, son of Tapas' founder Ted Vetter, said. "Trinity Health made plans to go in there a year ago or so," he said. "When Ruby Tuesdays left in 2018, the writing was on the wall.

"Business has been great. I wish we could stay. We love our Bloomfield customers and they love us. Nobody is happy about it."

Tapas' newest location, the takeout-only Tapas to Go at 225 Hebron Ave. in Glastonbury, opened in November and plans to stay open.

"We knew this was coming. That's why I opened Glastonbury," said Vetter, who operates the Glastonbury location.

The Glastonbury location makes the same entire menu as the Bloomfield location, as carryout only. Dishes include flatbreads, muffaletta, spanakopita, kebabs, hummus, falafel, stuffed grape leaves and a scattering of American dishes.

Tapas, co-founded in 1986 by Ted Vetter and Fred Dressler, started in the Elmwood neighborhood of West Hartford. The Bloomfield location opened in 2007. A Tapas on Ann in Hartford closed in 1999 and West Hartford closed in 2018. For a very brief period in the late '80s, Tapas had a satellite in Vernon.

Zach Vetter said any Tapas Bloomfield employees who want to stay with the company can have jobs at The Corner Pug in West Hartford, which the family also owns.

"If we staff The Corner Pug, I think we're going to try to fully reopen there. It hasn't been open for lunches. Maybe we can get to a regular seven days a week," he said. "Also, the staff [at The Corner Pug] has been working a lot. I think this might be an opportunity to get some time off for some folks."

He added that this may not be the last of Tapas. "People are already sending me ideas for new spaces but we might wait until spring before we dig in and look around," he said. "In the meantime, if you want Tapas food, you can come to Glastonbury."

Find the restaurant at tapasgo.com.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 391 N. Frontage Rd. New London, CT 06320 to satisfy a lien on February 10, 2022 at approx. 2:30 pm at www.storagetreasures.com.

Cube: 1527 - Denver barnett - Life time homes,
Cube: 3070 - Kenneth Green,
Cube: 4150 - Lexus Gordon.
1/27, 1/28/2022 7132109

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and
other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart 201 Lake Ave Bristol CT 06010 to satisfy a lien
on February 10th, 2022 at approx. 1:00pm at the following site [www.storagetreasures.com]
Cube #154 John Jackson; Cube #288 Ty Graves; Cube #320 William Bonito; Cube #426 Donna Callahan; Cube #493 Michael Veillette.
1/27/22 & 1/28/22 7130351

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Michael J. Veneziano (21-00996)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lara Veneziano, 1167 Worthington Ridge, Berlin, CT 06037

LEGAL NOTICE
OLD SAYBROOK ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Old Saybrook will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room located at 302 Main Street, Old Saybrook and via teleconference

Public Zoom Link: https://zoom.us/j/96174417686?pwd=Zk1kWmV2VlI3VVV1TUNtNEZRSEs0QT09
Meeting ID: 961 7441 7686
Meeting Passcode: 302302
Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866
One Tap Mobile: tel://9294362866,,96174417686# to hear the following:

21/22-13C Heidi S. Pascucci, seeks a variance of Par 10.7.1/10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); Par 24.5.1 (street line setback/25' required/14.3' proposed); Par 25.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/9.2' proposed); and 24.6.1 (building structure coverage/20% allowed/24.2% proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 104 s.f. dormer additions, increased building insulation and reconfigured entryway at 33 Hartlands Drive, Map 1/Lot 50, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone.

21/22-14C Bridgetax Associates, LLC seeks a variance of Par 10.8.2 & 10.8.3 (non-conforming lot size/12,500 s.f. required/5,393 s.f. proposed); Par 24.5.1 (street line setback/25' required/14.7' to house and 12.5' to deck proposed); and Par 24.5.3 (other line setback/15' required/3.5' to north and 12.6' to south proposed) of the Zoning Regulations to permit the construction of a 1,530 s.f. house and 124 s.f. in decks at 10 Bliss Street, Map 12/ Lot 103, Residence A District, Coastal Area Management Zone, AE 12 Flood Zone.

21/22-15 250 Middlesex Tpke, LLC seeks a variance of Par 10.7.1 & 10.7.2 (non-conformity enlargement/change); Par 34.6.3 (side yard setback/20' required/9' proposed); of the Zoning Regulations to permit the constructions of a 36 s.f enclosed entry area and 370 s.f. covered porch to an existing building for proposed conversion into an office/retail building. 250 Middlesex Turnpike, Assessor's Map 52, Lot 94, Gateway Business B-4 District.
Applicant: 250 Middlesex Turnpike, LLC.
Agent: Attorney Marjorie Shansky

At this hearing, interested persons may appear or submit written communication in advance.
Plans are available for review in the Land Use Department, 302 Main Street and at oldsaybrookct.gov/zoning-board-appeals
1/27, 2/3/2022 7131533

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jadow Radhakrishna Rao, Late of Chester (22-0030)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
: Uma Rao, 248 Middlesex Ave., Chester
1/27/22 7135982

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Cynthia E. Selmont, Late of Westbook, AKA Cynthia P. Selmont, AKA Cynthia Selmont (22-0020)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Corey Borzain, 24 Lynde St., Old Saybrook, CT 06475

1/27/22 7136058

Legal Notice

Town of Cromwell and Cromwell Fire District

Legal notice is hereby given that all supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills and the Second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property on the 2020 Grand List are due and payable on January 1, 2022. Taxes become delinquent if payment Is not postmarked on or before February 1, 2022. Interest will be charged at 1.5% per month from the due date of January 1. A minimum of $ 2.00 is charged for each delinquent Town and Fire District tax bill.

Office Hours- Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Douglas Sienna CCMC
Cromwell Tax Collector
12/24, 1/4, 1/27/2021 7083689

Legal Notice

Payment for Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes on the 2020 Grand List for automobiles registered between October 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021 become due and payable in full to the City of Middletown on January 1, 2022 and if not paid in full by February 1, 2022, shall immediately become delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 1 ½% per month of delinquency or $2.00 minimum interest. The second half of Real Estate, and Personal Property taxes on the 2020 Grand List are due and payable to the City of Middletown on January 1, 2022 and if not paid in full by February 1, 2022, shall immediately become delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 1 ½% per month of delinquency or $2.00 minimum interest.
Please mail your CHECK payment along with the correct payment stub to ensure proper credit in the pre-addressed envelope which was enclosed with your bill or to: City of Middletown Tax Office, 245 deKoven Dr, Middletown, CT 06457. If a receipt is requested please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope. Charge card payments are accepted on-line only at www.middletownct.gov by clicking on Online Bill Pay. Please be aware there is a convenience fee if you utilize the on-line service.

Lee Renee Matterazzo, CCMC
Tax Collector
City of Middletown, CT
12/22/21 1/7/22 1/27/22 7109369

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Michael Heit, Late of Chester (22-0031)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated January 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
: Elizabeth A. Tucker
c/o BARBARA ANN TAYLOR, REID AND RIEGE, PC, ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, HARTFORD, CT 06103

1/27/22 7136043

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Regina Doski, AKA Regina Doszczeczko (21-00989)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Irene Klemonski
c/o JOHN C MATULIS, JANUSZEWSKI M & D, 165 WEST MAIN STREET, P. O. BOX 150, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06050

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joseph R. Deshaies, AKA Joseph Richard Deshaies, AKA Richard Deshaies (22-00041)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Janet Deshaies Bertelsen, 122 Cheney Road, Marlborough, CT 06447

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Robert A. Story (22-00032)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 21, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Sandra Story
c/o KENNETH JOSEPH SHEA, ANDERSON, REYNOLDS & LYNCH, P.C., ONE LIBERTY SQUARE, SUITE 208, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Margaret M. Ottman (22-00038)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated January 21, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Scott Ottman
c/o WILLIAM FRANCIS BECKERT, JAINCHILL & BECKERT, 144 WEST MAIN STREET, PLAINVILLE, CT 06062

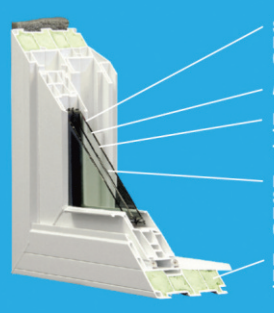


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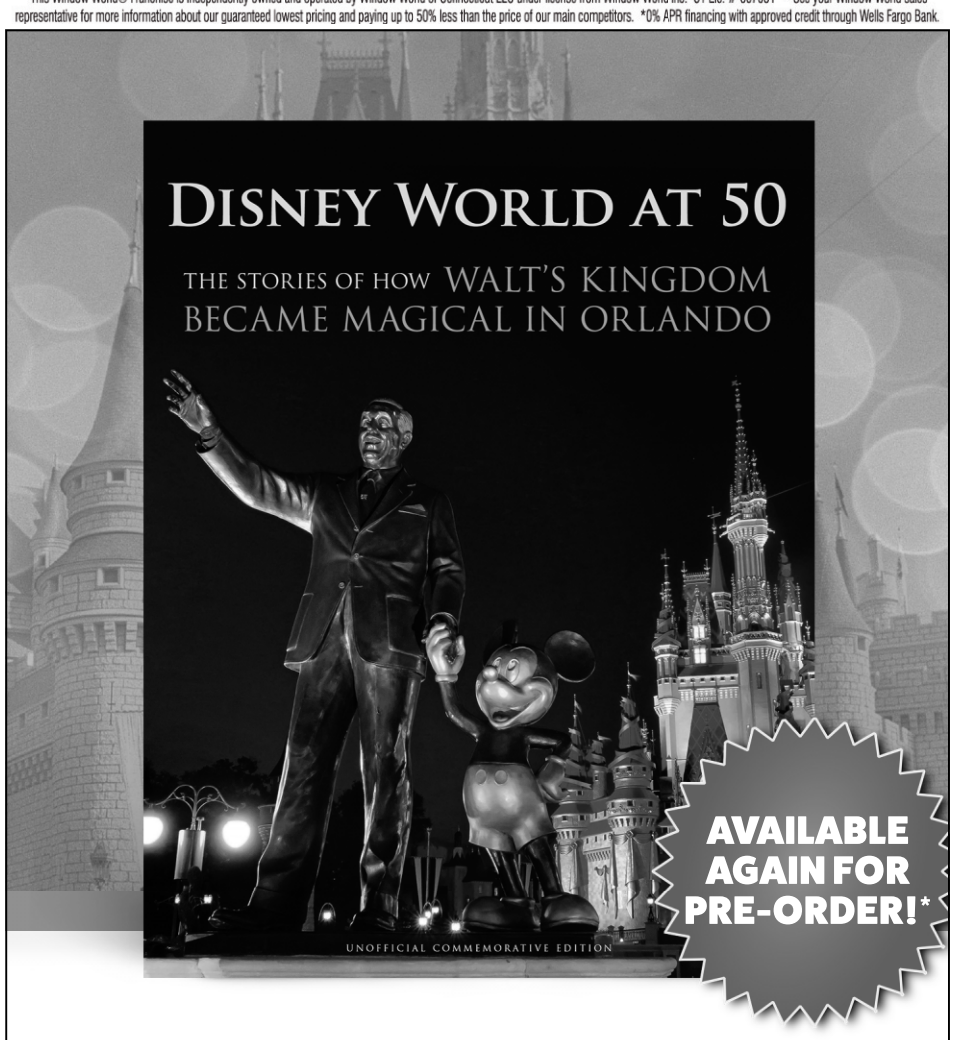
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Khwezi Magwaza, 41, has dealt with heavy periods, anemia and other symptoms caused by her uterine fibroids for seven years. **MALIN FEZEHAI FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES**

The invisible toll of fibroids

By Patrice Peck
The New York Times

Black women are more likely to have uterine growths, experience debilitating symptoms that can leave them feeling fearful, depressed, helpless and alone

When she was a junior in college, Christie Gaskins, then 20, could barely get out of bed. Her period had become heavier, longer and much more painful, leaving her too weak and unwell to excel in school or socialize with friends. Her abdomen had swelled and firmed, making her self-conscious of appearing pregnant.

Scared, isolated and exhausted, she was either in class, asleep or holed up in her bedroom. "I think I kind of buried it and didn't really consider that I was going through a depression," said Gaskins, now 37. "But now that I'm thinking about it, I'm like, 'That was a traumatic situation.'"

After two emergency room visits yielded misdiagnoses from white doctors, Gaskins said that a Black doctor felt her enlarged abdomen and asked if she knew about noncancerous uterine growths called fibroids. A few months later, surgeons removed a two-pound fibroid from her uterus.

"I felt like no one truly listened," Gaskins said of those first misdiagnoses at the ER. "All they saw was a young Black college girl and assumed I had either an STD or an unplanned pregnancy."

Of the estimated 26 million women between ages 15 and 50 who have uterine fibroids, more than half of them will experience related health problems or symptoms. These benign tumors grow in the muscle of the uterus and can range in size from that of a sesame seed to a watermelon. They can cause heavier and more painful periods, frequent urination, abdominal bloating, lower back pain, painful sex and, rarely, infertility.

Black women are two to three times more likely than white women to have fibroids, and are more likely to have larger and more numerous tumors and develop them earlier in life. Black women are also significantly more likely to have debilitating symptoms that interfere with work, relationships and social and physical activities — which can leave them feeling fearful, depressed, helpless and alone.

Experts say that these differences, paired with the racial and gendered discrimination Black women already face — in medical settings, schools, workplaces and beyond — can compound the physical and mental tolls that uterine fibroids take on them.

"We know that symptomatic fibroids is causing stress," said Anissa Vines, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. In particular, she said, Black women, as well as people with fibroids who don't identify as women, experience that stress most significantly.

The week before Khwezi Magwaza passed out in a Starbucks cafe in June, a nurse had warned Magwaza, 41, that she was extremely anemic and needed to go to an emergency room if she ever felt weak. But after seven years of dealing with heavy periods, anemia and other symptoms linked to her uterine fibroids, Magwaza waved off the dizziness and spotty vision she endured on her subway commute.

"I'm pushing myself, even though I know I'm not at 100 percent, and ignoring medical advice because I'm so used to my own well-being coming last," she said. "And I think that a lot of Black women can relate to that experience."

Tori Dixon, a licensed professional counselor who works with Black women experiencing symptomatic fibroids, said that Black women have historically pushed aside their feelings of pain and discomfort, and sometimes express feeling ignored and unheard — especially in health care spaces. An October 2020, survey found that of 777 Black adults polled in the U.S., 1 in 5 said they had experienced race-based discrimination in health care settings within the past year. Black women in particular, the study found, were most affected.

Certain tropes and catchphrases specific to women of color — "strong Black superwoman," "Black girl magic" — can also be as harmful as they are empowering, Dixon added. But it's important to dismantle those stereotypes by learning when and how to say no, embracing self-compassion over perfectionism and scheduling time to recharge.

It's also important to ask for help, Dixon said. Start by learning to recognize the signs that your mind, along with your body, has been affected by a fibroid diagnosis. Ask yourself: Have your social activities or preferences changed since your diagnosis? Are you sad or depressed, having trouble concentrating or sleeping, or experiencing crying spells, drastic appetite changes, weight changes or suicidal thoughts? If so, you may want to consider talking to a mental health professional, Dixon said.

Getting a therapist changed the life of Tanika Gray Valbrun, 43, who was diagnosed with fibroids at age 25. Counseling helped eliminate the shame she used to feel about her fibroids. She recognized that therapy has a stigma in some parts of the Black community and recalled being discouraged by her Jamaican mother from publicly sharing her experience with fibroids.

"I don't blame my mother because she's only teaching me what she was taught," Valbrun said. "But at some point we have to change that narrative."

Having friends, family or romantic partners who understand and validate your physical and psychological pain can help you better manage any strong negative emotions, and help you feel supported. They can also attend doctor's visits with you to take notes and help contextualize the discussion.

"You need that person, so when you walk out the doctor's office and feel like you'll never have children, your girlfriend will be like, 'OK girl, she didn't say that, but she said we had to do XYZ,'" Valbrun said.

Seeking out fibroid patient and physician communities, from organizations and groups like The Fibroid Foundation or The White Dress Project (a nonprofit Valbrun founded), can give patients a place to discuss their experiences, connect with caring providers and find events and educational programming.

Dixon emphasized that fibroids do not mark the end of a life worth living. And sharing stories can help foster hope for yourself and others, she said.

"I just want to be clear that there is hope," Dixon said. "This is not a doom-and-gloom situation."

Interest in using CBD or cannabis products to treat skin conditions grows

By Denise Mann
HealthDay News

Growing numbers of folks are turning to CBD or cannabis products to treat skin conditions, but researchers warn that the science hasn't kept up with demand.

When more than 500 adults were asked about their use of CBD (cannabidiol) or marijuana, 17.6% said they used an over-the-counter cannabis product to treat skin conditions such as acne, psoriasis, rosacea or eczema without a dermatologist's recommendation. CBD is derived from hemp, but unlike THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), the active component in marijuana, CBD doesn't get you high.

"People are using these products without the direction of a doctor, and even those who weren't using them are interested in learning more," said study author Dr. Adam Friedman, chair of dermatology at the George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C. It's time for science to catch up, he said.

There is some promising early animal data that suggests how these products may help treat inflammatory skin diseases, he added.

About 89% of the adults queried said there is a role for marijuana or other cannabis products in the treatment of skin disease, and the majority said they would be willing to try one of these products. Of the two-thirds of people who had seen a dermatologist, 20% were told to try a CBD product, primarily for acne and psoriasis. Just shy of 8% of these folks used medical cannabis.

However, it's buyer beware when it comes to CBD, as these products are not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the same way as drugs, Friedman said.

The findings were recently published in the Journal of Drugs in Dermatology.

Other experts not involved with the study point out there's still a lot to learn, including the correct component CBD or THC, the proper dose and the proper formulation.



Eczema, which inflames the skin, is among the conditions some adults are treating with cannabis products.
DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Latifah addresses series exit of Noth

From news services



Queen Latifah stars in "The Equalizer." Chris Noth was fired from the series late last year. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION 2019

Queen Latifah is speaking out about the firing of her co-star Chris Noth in the wake of recent sexual assault allegations — and she hopes justice will prevail.

Noth, who was accused of misconduct by several women in December, was dropped from the CBS crime drama in the wake of the scandal. Although the actor has denied the allegations against him, the fallout has been swift.

Speaking publicly about her co-star for the first time, Latifah said it was "still surreal."

"It is such a dicey, delicate situation that requires a great deal of respect," she said during an appearance on "People (The TV Show!)." "That's a personal thing that he's going to have to deal with."

The Grammy-winning singer stars in "The Equalizer" as former CIA operative Robyn McCall. She also serves as an executive producer and said the show is still figuring out what to do about Noth's character.

"Chris' character's obviously a big part of the show, and it was amazing chemistry, amazing chemistry," Latifah added. "And my feeling is justice has to prevail regardless. I just want the right things to be done, you know?"

When Universal Television and CBS addressed the Noth allegations late last year, they said that he "will no longer film additional episodes." The series had been on hiatus at the time. "The Equalizer" returned with two new episodes this month, and only one featured Noth's former CIA director, William Bishop.

Jury awards Cardi B $1.25M in lawsuit: A federal jury in Atlanta has awarded $1.25 million to Cardi B in a defamation lawsuit against a celebrity news blogger who she says posted videos falsely stating the Grammy-winning rapper used cocaine, had contracted herpes and engaged in prostitution.

The jury on Monday found Latasha Kebe, known online as Tasha K, and a company she owns liable for defamation, invasion of privacy and intentional infliction of emotional distress against the rapper. Kebe's lawyers said in an email that they disagree with the verdict and will file an appeal. The jury awarded Cardi B $1 million in general damages for pain and suffering and/or reputational injury and $250,000 in medical expenses.

Kebe produces, hosts and publishes a YouTube channel called unWinewithTashaK.

McDermott to lead 'FBI: Most Wanted': It looks like Dylan McDermott may be staging a comeback to the right side of the law. The actor who plays crime boss Richard Wheatley on "Law & Order: Organized Crime," is moving to "FBI: Most Wanted," following the departure of series lead Julian McMahon. Both series are created and executive produced by Dick Wolf. It's not known who McDermott will play on "Most Wanted," but with McMahon's team leader Jess LaCroix exiting, it's easy to envision McDermott picking up his mantle.

Jan. 27 birthdays: Actor James Cromwell is 82. Drummer Nick Mason is 78. Singer Nedra Talley is 76. Dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov is 74. TV host Keith Olbermann is 63. Actor Bridget Fonda is 58. Actor Alan Cumming is 57. Actor Tamlyn Tomita is 56. Rapper Tricky is 54. Comedian Patton Oswalt is 53. Actor Josh Randall is 50.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Reason to keep hopes up during pandemic

Dear Amy: I have noticed in many responses about COVID-19, you and many others have said things like, "When this is over, we can get together" or, "When we reach the end of the virus, life will return to normal."

In my mind, we are now two years into what was supposed to last for 14 days. When is everyone going to realize that this virus is never going away?!

For me, with the exception of work, I'm completely isolated from the world — except for the internet.

I would love to get out like I did prior to the pandemic, but I don't see this ever ending.

Why keep people's hopes up and not prepare them for what could be forever?

— Over it and Hopeless

Dear Hopeless: As of this writing, we are experiencing an alarming surge in hospitalizations, as the pandemic stretches into its third year.

Yes, the end seems to be receding into the distance with every passing complication, but the reason to keep people's hopes up is because ... the pandemic will end, just as the pandemics that came before it also eventually transitioned from pandemic to "endemic."

This virus is not going away, but the pandemic will shift into endemic status, and the virus causing COVID-19 will become one of many viruses that sweep through the Earth's human and animal population, mutate and sweep through again. Vaccinations and medications and remedies treating symptoms will help people to cope with having the virus.

According to the World Health Organization, the only viral disease we humans have ever totally eradicated is smallpox, which had been kicking around the planet for thousands of years. Now, the only remaining smallpox pathogens exist in laboratories.

Viruses causing other pandemics and epidemics — including polio — still exist, but we live with them, mitigating the risks.

After the tragedy of 9/11, we adjusted to our "new normal." Nations rise and fall; natural disasters buffet our landscape. Life can be very hard.

In terms of your own physical and mental health, you can get out — and you should get out. You should spend as much time as possible outdoors. You can safely meet people for walks or visits outside. You can minimize the health risk to you and others by mask wearing, social distancing and washing your hands well.

Also, pick up a book. There are many different ways to experience the richness of being in the world. Reading a good novel is one of them.

Dear Amy: My late husband was a very admired Boy Scout leader. He was given many handmade gifts from his Scouts over the years.

He has been gone now for over two years, and I am trying my best to go through his (many) things and decide what to keep and what to donate.

My adult children do not want these particular mementos made by others, and I'm not sure what to do with them.

Is it rude to offer them back to the person that made the gift?

— Worried Widow

Dear Worried: Not only is it not rude, but I think it is extremely generous and thoughtful to offer these handmade things back to the original creator.

These are artifacts from another era, and if you are able to return these treasures to the people who made them, they can then make their own decisions about what to do with them.

Compose a short note, telling the recipient that your husband valued his Boy Scout experience and that he treasured the keepsake for decades — and now you hope that this handmade object will bring back good memories, in a new home.

Dear Amy: "Concerned Grandpa" was worried about his young grandsons' weight. You suggested that he gently speak to his son about this. A word of caution. I spoke to my (former) daughter-in-law about our grandson's weight when he was young, and she — literally — never spoke to us again.

— Been There

Dear Been There: Weight is an extremely tender topic, and family members frequently want to express their concern. I have never heard of this working out the way it was intended to.

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TV REVIEW

Hilarious and profound, new 'Fraggle Rock' thing of beauty

By Robert Lloyd
Los Angeles Times



Red, from left, Gobo, Boober, Mokey and Wembley in the revival series "Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock." APPLE TV+

After more than three decades, Jim Henson's "Fraggle Rock" has received a full-series revival now streaming on Apple TV+, fashioned as a 13-part serial with episodic elements, that plays adroitly to the original's themes of interdependence and self-acceptance.

"Back to the Rock" is anything but a modest production. There have been substantial advances in puppetry and digital effects since the first series, which ran from 1983 to 1987; the 21st-century high-resolution widescreen television allows for bigger sets, bigger crowds, bigger production numbers and more details in the characters and clothing. The photography and lighting are first-rate. It is all quite beautiful.

Most importantly, "Back to the Rock," developed by Alex Cuthbertson and Matt Fusfeld, has been made with a believer's fealty to the original, in terms of character, humor — it's very funny — and its main message: We are all connected and must learn to listen.

Fraggles are a race of cavern-dwelling creatures who live to dance, play, sing and explore; they love games and holidays, and get by on a 30-minute workweek. The Doozers are, by contrast, a race of tiny compulsive builders who grind radishes (the Fraggles' favorite food) into crystalline Doozer sticks, from which they make elaborate constructions the Fraggles like to eat, thereby creating more space for the Doozers to build.

The radishes are appropriated from the garden of the Gorgs, troll-ish creatures that recall Maurice Sendak illustrations and live above the Fraggles. A well in their garden leads to the Fraggles' Great Hall; also on their property is an all-seeing trash heap named Marjory (Aymee Garcia), with the voice of a Jewish mother, from whom the Fraggles receive mystical advice.

The series centers on five young friends, who are as you may remember them. It's important that within the bounds of their Fragglehood, they represent distinct individuals because accepting difference, in oneself and others, is a recurring theme of the series. They are Gobo (John Tartaglia), an adventurer with a Canadian accent, accentuating his niceness; Red (Karen Prell), excitable and physical; Mokey (Donna Kimball), a little older, spiritual; Wembley (Jordan Lockhart), a little younger, indecisive, with a tendency to hyperventilate; and Boober (Dave Goelz, puppeted by Frank Meschkuleit), depressive, introverted, devoted to laundry.

Puppets don't age, unless you rebuild them to. The unavoidable change here, 35 years on, is the show's resident human, who lives in a back house where a hole in the wall leads to the Fraggle universe. The tenant is no longer an elderly inventor but a young woman (Lilli Cooper) working toward a doctorate in marine biology; like her predecessor, she is called Doc and has a dog named Sprocket (Tartaglia).

Water as a limited, corruptible resource drives the plot. The main storyline throws a wrench into the ecological balance between the Fraggles, Doozers and Gorgs — and getting back from the breakdown is the season's work. On the way, the Fraggles find time to dance, sing, party and play games, which they regard almost as a panacea; at the same time, facts keep getting in the way.

Everything works. But what makes the series so exciting is that, digital compositing and cleanup aside, we are seeing, nearly all the time, real figures on real sets, whether controlled by humans standing beneath them or by radio control or inside suits or some combination thereof, and there is a kind of magic in knowing this. The textures are palpable. The Fraggles and Fraggle Rock are evidently handmade and at the same time actual and alive — something you could become part of, could make yourself, potentially. It prickles the mind.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): A discussion with friends could be quite important for you now. Something you're ashamed of might seem less painful when you learn a different way of looking at it. You may not want to bring this revelation to your conversation.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The way you share money might be getting in the way of building the most functional arrangement possible for you. Muster the courage to be honest about your true needs! It's possible to do this without looping in your whole social network, but even they may be kinder than you imagine.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Getting noticed for doing a good job at work could get you some new responsibilities. You might be a little anxious about your ability to step up to the next level. Confiding in someone you trust about the gaps in your knowledge could be very helpful for you now. They can help you.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Your attention to detail could be useful now for improving an arrangement where you share money with others. It might be important for you to look at the laws. You may discover that authority figures are less harsh about certain details than you had assumed.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Connect with someone close, but you may have to be careful not to lose sight of your own limits. It might be easy to get so caught up in the moment that boundaries don't seem important, but getting things off on the wrong track now could lead to problems later.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Adjust your routines at home. You need to accept that you can only control your own routines, as others you live with have their own ideas about how they want to do things. No matter how much room there is, you can't just optimistically assume that everything will work out on its own.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A big talk in one of your close relationships could go well for you at the moment. You have a healthy sense of your own needs, but you can express them in a way that honors the other person's freedom too. Be careful about taking on new responsibilities that look cool at first glance.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Ways you can use your money to make things better for your family may seem crystal clear. If you don't also consider your own desires, they might sabotage even your best-laid plans. Check in with your sense of what you are and are not responsible for. Honor your own needs.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Oversharing in conversation may be all too easy today. Your thoughts about your upbringing and your personal wounds could come out as you chat. Not everyone is necessarily up for those discussions. Your greatest challenge might be pushing yourself to listen as well as you talk.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Bluffing to others that you have more might sound rather alluring for you now. You could run into an odd situation where this is actually a helpful approach. Insecurity stemming from your upbringing could positively motivate you to get creative. Take pride in your ingenuity.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Hearing about a friend in need could motivate you to help in any way you can today. That said, try to make sure your feelings of generosity are coming from a healthy place. Your friends probably love you for who you are. There's no need for you to buy their affection.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be recognized for an achievement, but there might be more to the story than the world hears. Try to defer to the judgment of those in authority. They may have to consider other factors that aren't on your radar. Remember that you might not be able to rely on them for all your needs.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Jan. 27, 1756, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1888, the National Geographic Society was incorporated.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 2006, Western Union delivered its last telegram.

In 2010, J.D. Salinger died in New Hampshire at 91.

In 2013, flames raced through a crowded nightclub in southern Brazil, killing 242 people.

In 2017, President Donald Trump barred all refugees from entering the United States for four months — and those from war-ravaged Syria indefinitely — declaring the ban necessary to prevent "radical Islamic terrorists" from entering the nation.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***PlayJumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

		6			4			
	2						9	
7	8	3	9			6		
5			3		2			
	1						3	
			7		1			
		8			9	2	4	
	4						1	
			1			5		7

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

7	8	5	3	4	1	9	6	2
9	1	6	7	2	8	5	4	3
3	4	2	9	6	5	8	7	1
2	5	8	1	9	7	4	3	6
9	3	7	6	5	4	2	1	8
1	6	4	2	8	3	7	9	5
4	2	6	5	1	9	3	8	7
5	9	3	8	7	6	1	2	4
8	7	1	4	3	2	6	5	9

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BOGGLE

Boggle® BrainBusters!™ By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

BUPH WOIS GOKE AGLM

E	H	E	L
D	K	A	V
R	N	R	O
P	O	B	C

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE® RATING

1151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FOUR BODIES OF WATER in the grid of letters.

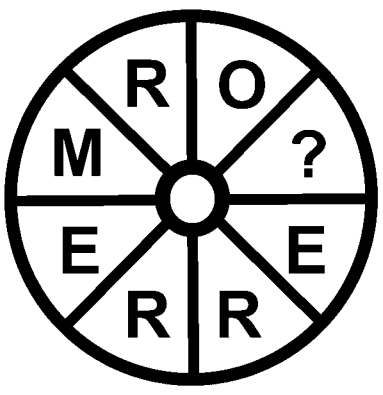
COVE LAKE POND HARBOR

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11-5-19

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

REFORMER

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: antique fair

276

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

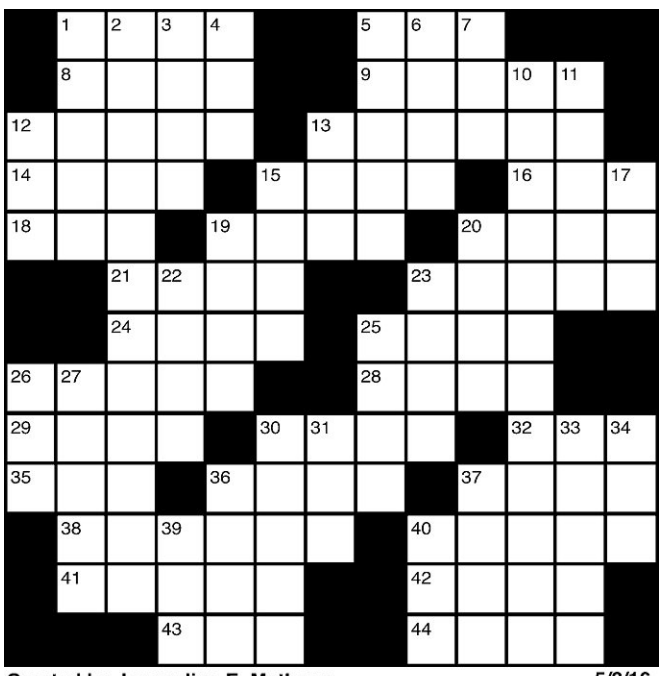
R	D	P	K	L	L	R	U	S	T	Y	D	R	E	S	S	E	R
P	G	Q	E	S	N	Q	Y	C	K	R	O	R	R	I	M	N	T
R	T	F	U	W	G	R	A	R	E	L	L	E	S	W	O	R	B
I	A	A	A	A	T	A	N	K	A	R	D	Z	L	G	I	W	A
C	C	H	P	N	L	E	Q	T	J	H	D	K	W	N	U	G	E
E	S	A	V	E	C	I	R	E	A	P	K	M	G	B	B	J	P
S	Z	X	R	S	S	Y	T	T	S	X	O	S	H	C	T	A	W
S	K	N	R	V	O	T	S	Y	V	N	L	R	E	L	A	E	D
I	C	L	O	F	I	T	R	A	E	A	D	M	M	L	S	W	E
L	O	D	G	R	A	N	L	Y	N	O	I	R	P	C	K	R	L
V	L	E	H	N	B	U	G	T	E	J	Z	Y	E	W	O	E	G
E	C	G	D	J	E	E	E	M	S	Q	Z	R	S	E	O	Y	G
R	I	A	H	C	E	R	A	W	S	S	A	L	G	L	B	U	A
O	D	T	J	D	N	C	E	K	A	F	O	E	T	T	Y	B	H
O	N	L	L	S	N	I	O	C	A	G	R	W	H	T	R	O	W
N	R	O	W	F	U	R	N	I	T	U	R	E	D	O	O	W	U
K	G	P	P	O	R	C	E	L	A	I	N	J	I	B	F	N	H
T	X	T	O	P	A	E	T	A	U	T	H	E	N	T	I	C	F

AGED
AUTHENTIC
BOOKS
BOTTLE
BRONZE
BROWSE
BUYER
CAMEO
CARVING
CHAIR
CLOCK
COINS
DEALER
DRESSER
FAKE
FANCY
FURNITURE
GLASSWARE
GOLD
HAGGLE
HATSTAND
JEWELRY
JUGS
LANTERN
MIRROR
MONEY
PEWTER
PORCELAIN
PRICES
QUALITY
RARE
RINGS
RUSTY
SELLER
SILVER
TANKARD
TAPESTRY
TEAPOT
VALUE
VASE
WATCH
WOOD
WORN
WORTH

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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 5/8/16

ACROSS

1 Alda or Thicke
5 Drew Carey's predecessor on "The Price Is Right"
8 Actress Turner
9 Death notices, for short
12 "The __ Duke Show"
13 "__ Eyes"; Shirley Temple movie
14 The __ Brothers; singing quartet popular in the 1950s
15 __ Lane; Erica Durance's role on "Smallville"
16 Predatory fish
18 "NCIS: __ Angeles"
19 Wines and dines
20 Actor Katz
21 "Mata __"; Greta Garbo film
23 Newton or Gretzky
24 "The __"; horror movie for Gregory Peck and Lee Remick
25 "Sesame Street" viewers
26 Julie of "Modern Family"
28 Take a break
29 Sign of sleepiness
30 "__ Wide Shut"; Tom Cruise film
32 Sullivan and O'Neill
35 "__ walked out on the streets of Laredo..."
36 "__ Bloods"
37 Trim a photo with Photoshop
38 "Leah Remini: __ Relative"
40 "__ Beach"; series for Dana Delany
41 Lewis or Belafonte
42 "Has Anybody __ My Gal"; Rock Hudson movie
43 Marvin or Majors
44 "__ Wonderful Life"

DOWN

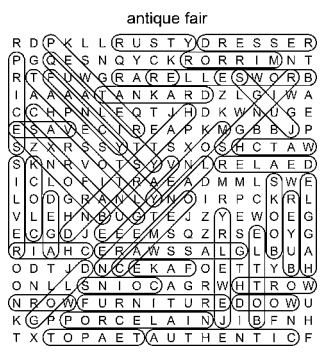
1 "The __"; film for Dennis Quaid and Billy Bob Thornton
2 "The __ Stephen Colbert"
3 Colony insects
4 Anti's vote
5 Actor Karloff
6 Japanese sashes
7 "The __ Bang Theory"
10 "__ of Laura"
11 Isaac or Howard
12 Buddy
13 When doubled, Yogi Bear's little friend
15 Cut of pork
17 "__ to Me"
19 Songbird
20 Cereal grains
22 Sitcom about a deacon
23 Misfortunes
25 "One __ Hill"
26 Win __ landslide; coast to victory
27 Fertile spot in the desert
30 Miss __ Ewing; role on "Dallas"
31 __ Brynner
33 "The __ Reed Show"
34 Jacuzzi
36 Uncovered
37 Late newscaster Huntley
39 Mr. Mineo
40 "__: Cyber"

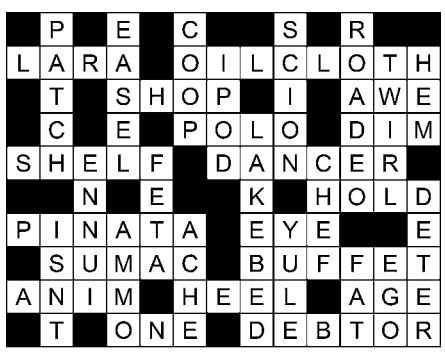


5/15/16

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antique fair





PRECISION

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RIYAN

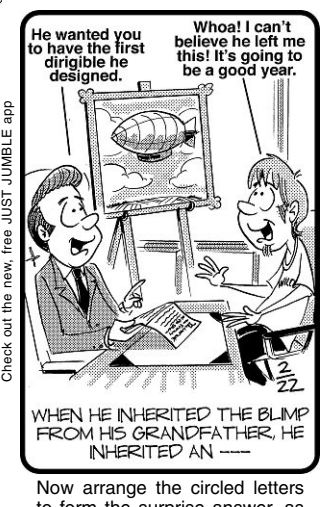
SOTHI

SNURKH

PREPEP

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

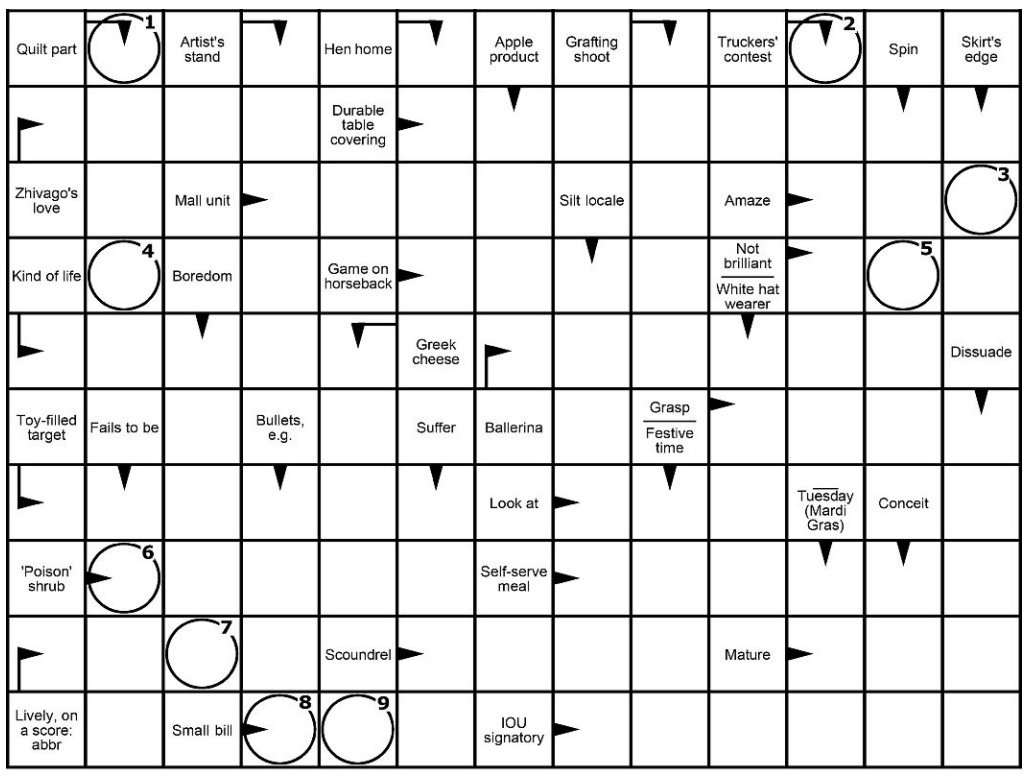
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " ____ - ____ "

Jumbles: RAINY HOIST SHRUNK PEPPER
Answer: When he inherited the blimp from his grandfather, he inherited an — "HEIR-SHIP"

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

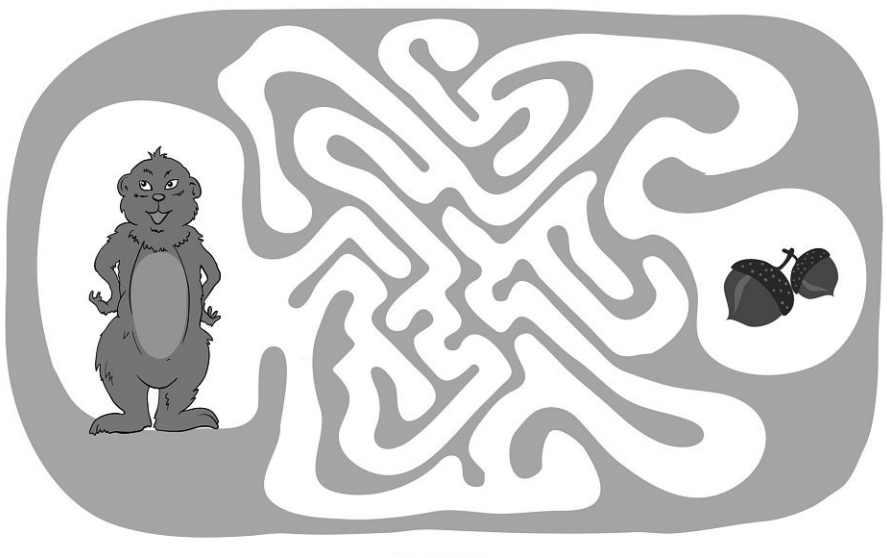


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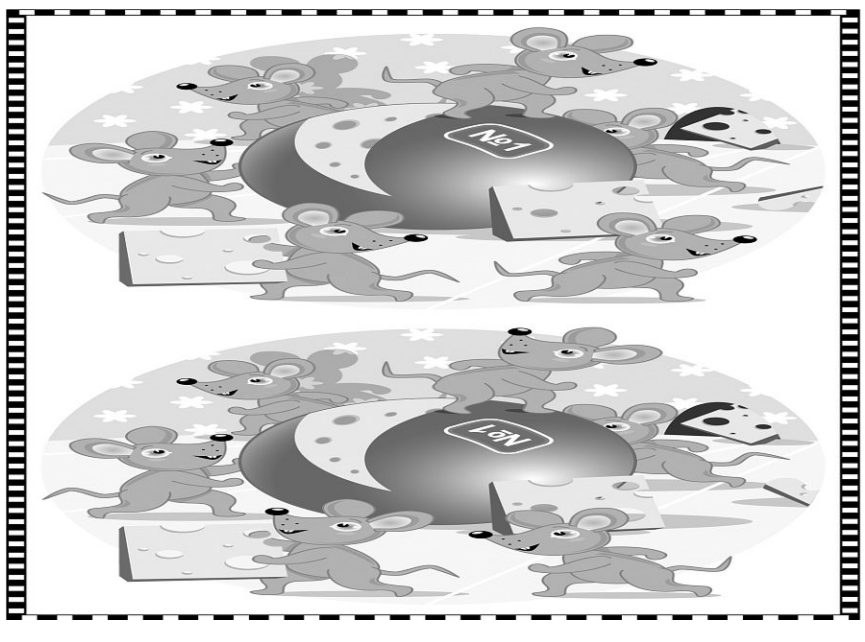
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES

Help the marmot to find the nut



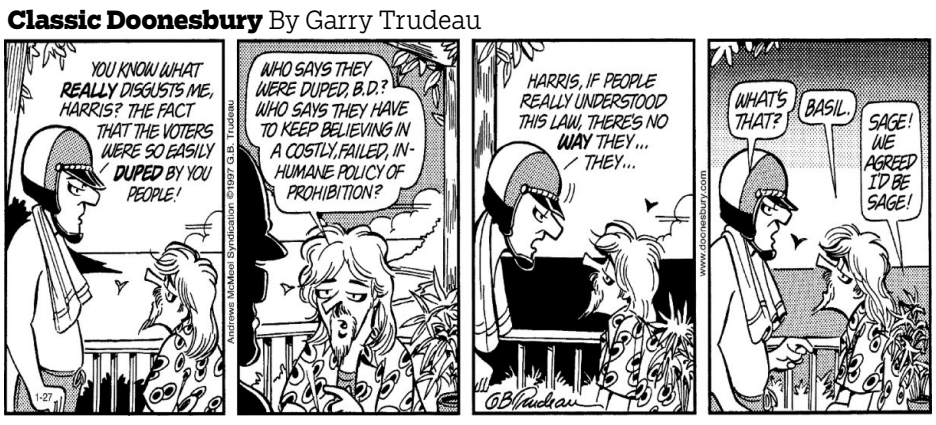
FIND 7 DIFFERENCES



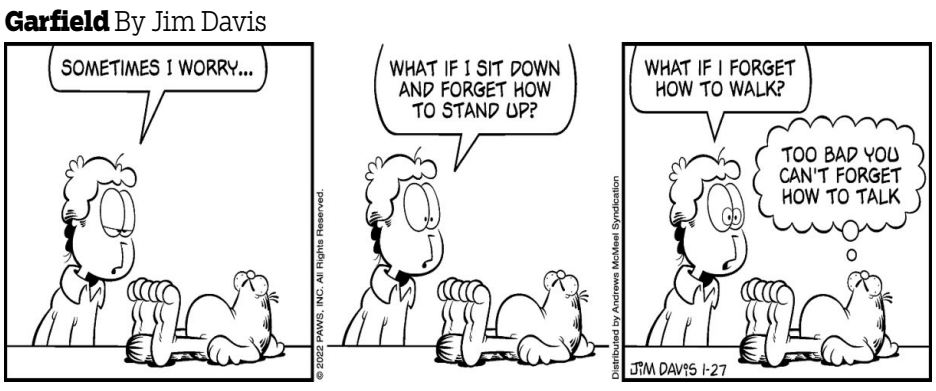
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



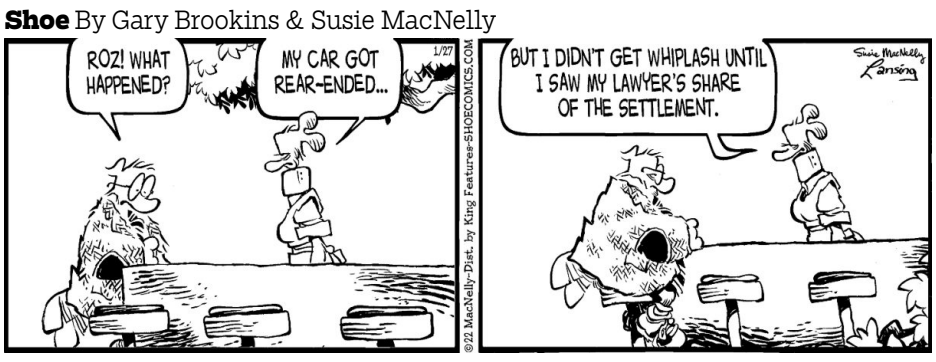
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



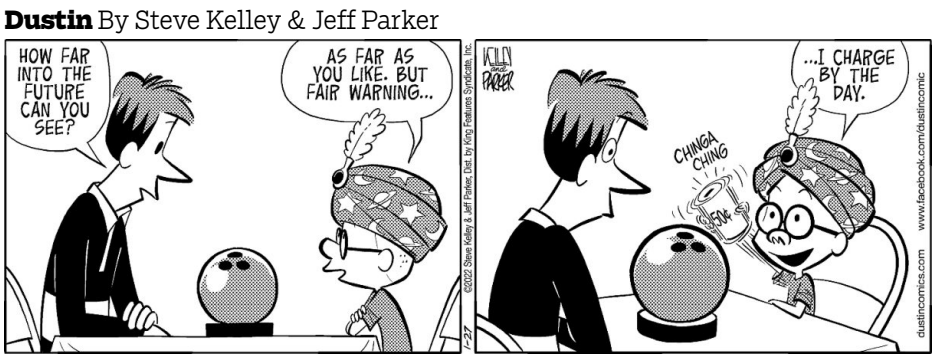
Garfield By Jim Davis



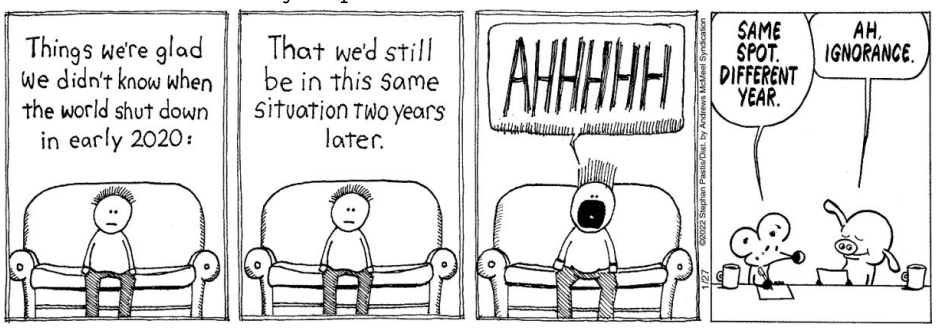
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



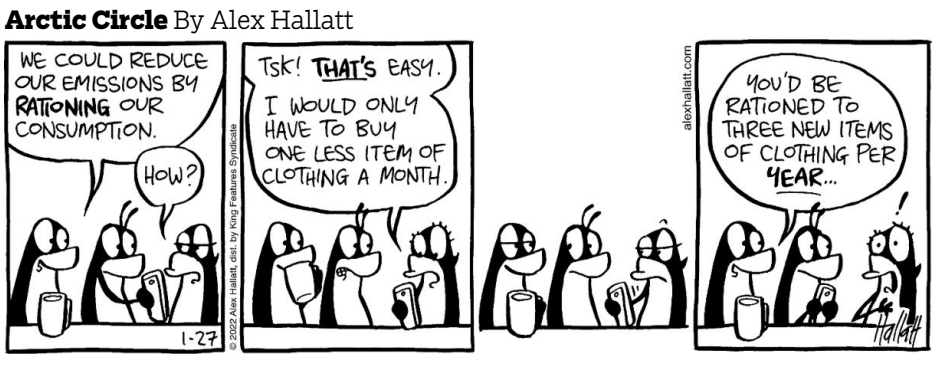
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



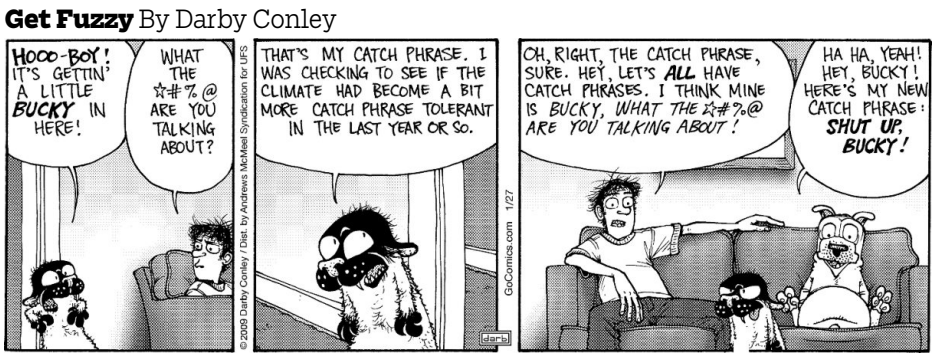
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



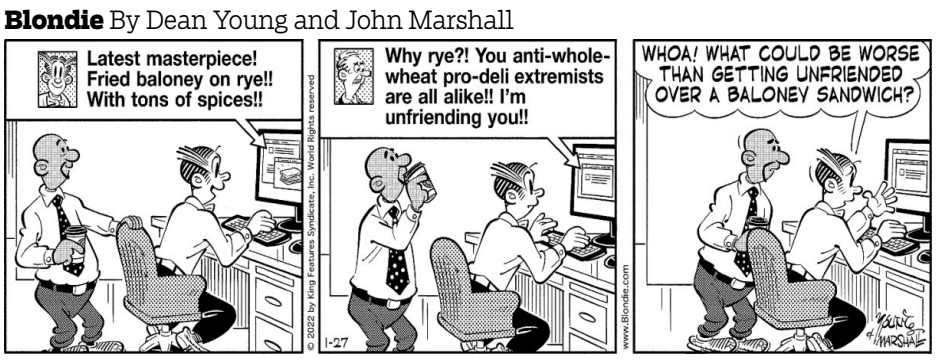
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



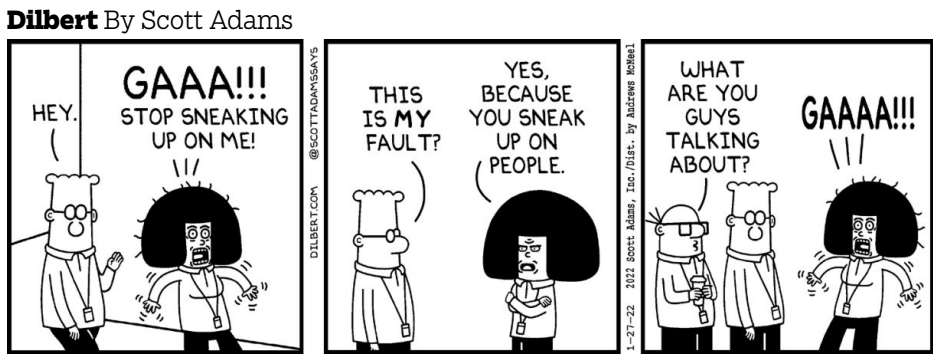
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



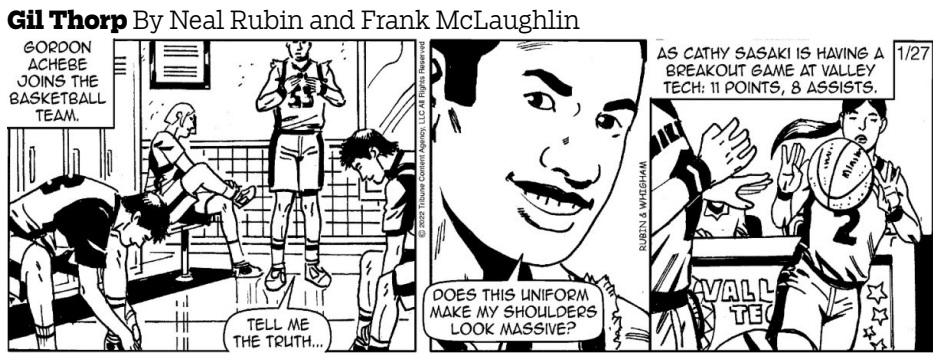
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



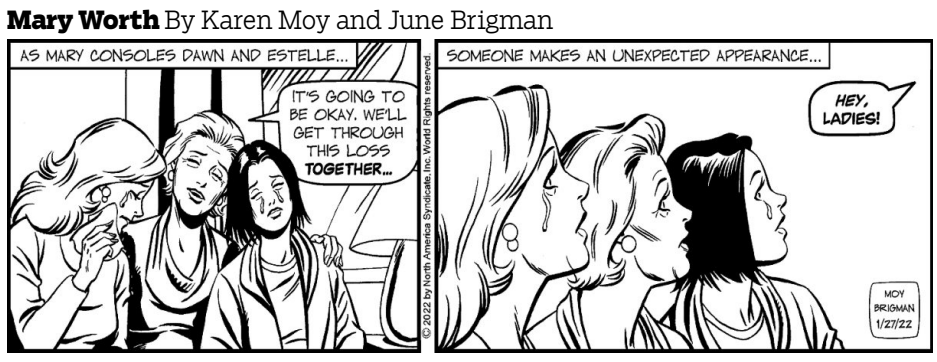
Dilbert By Scott Adams



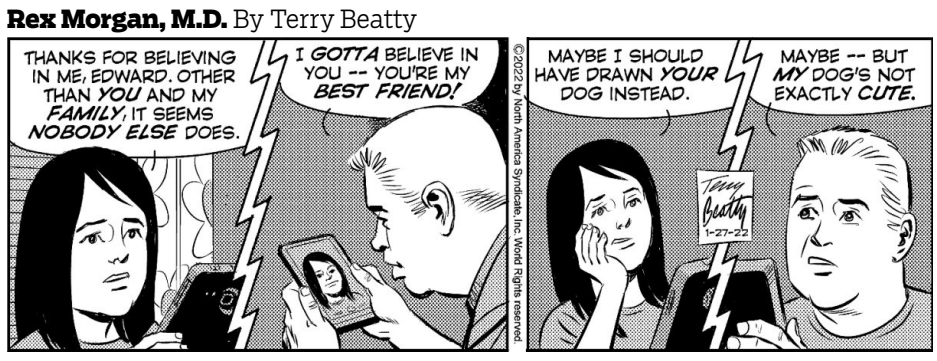
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



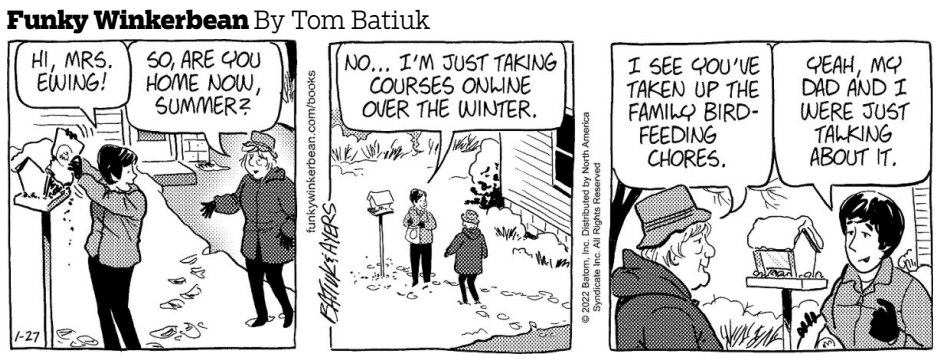
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



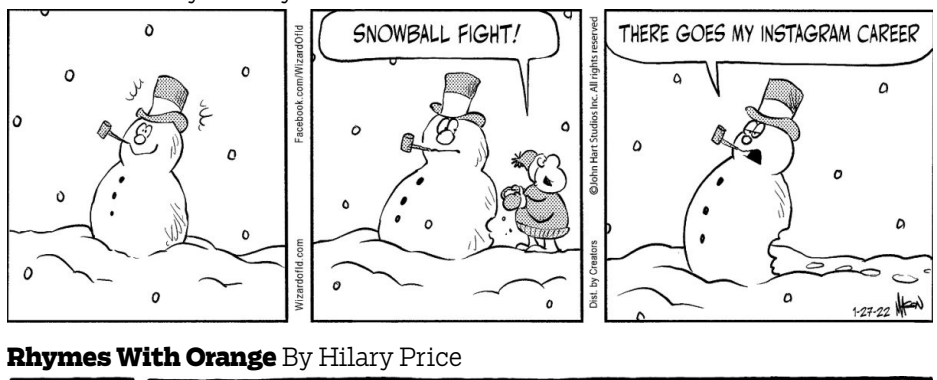
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



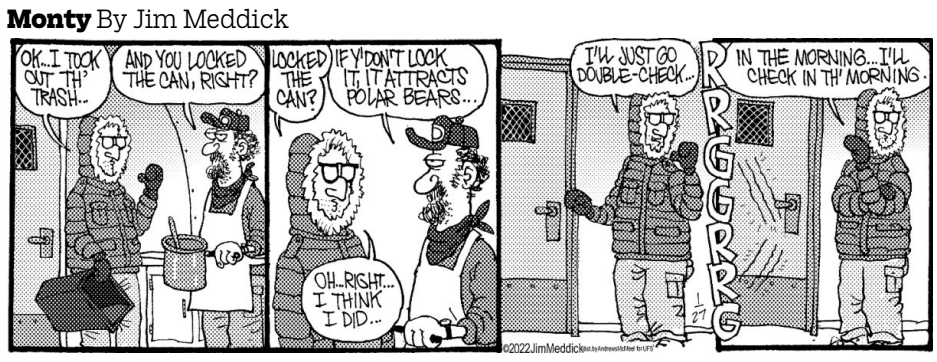
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



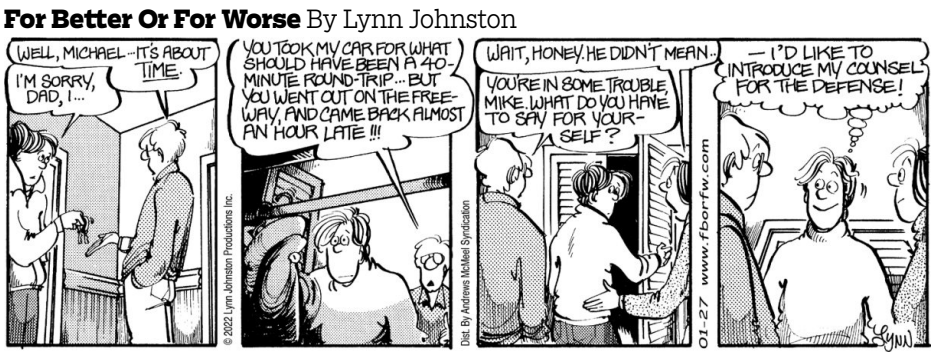
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



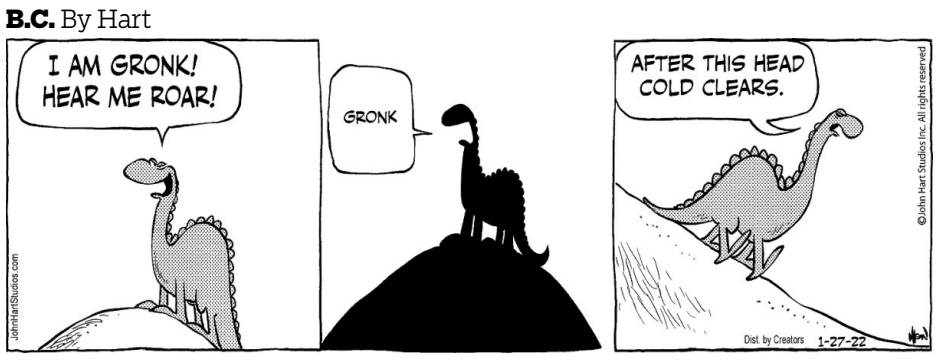
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



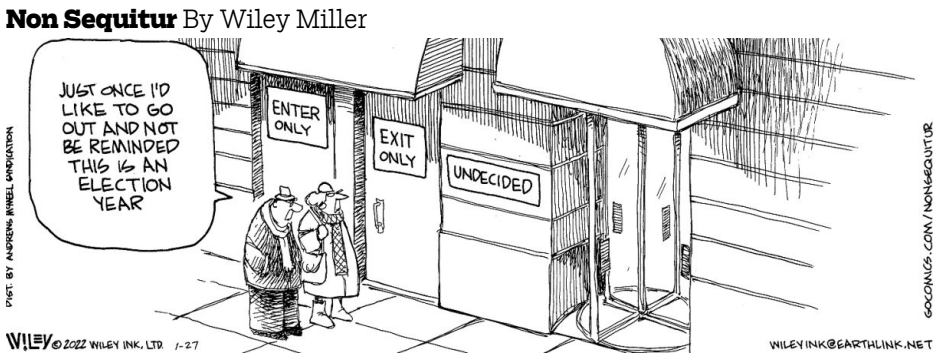
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



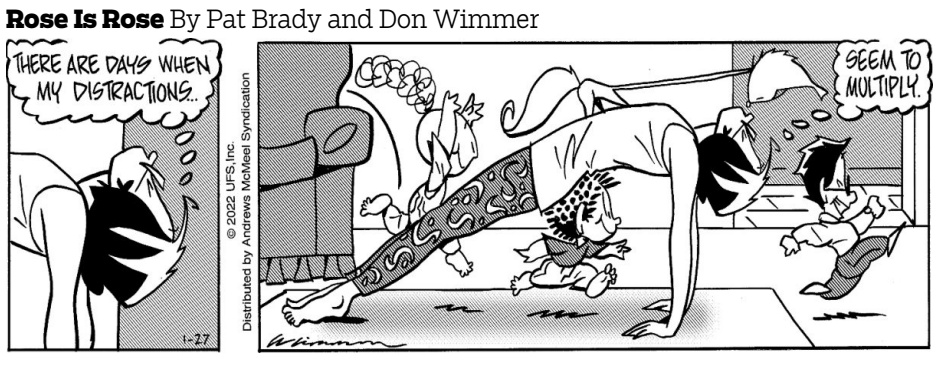
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

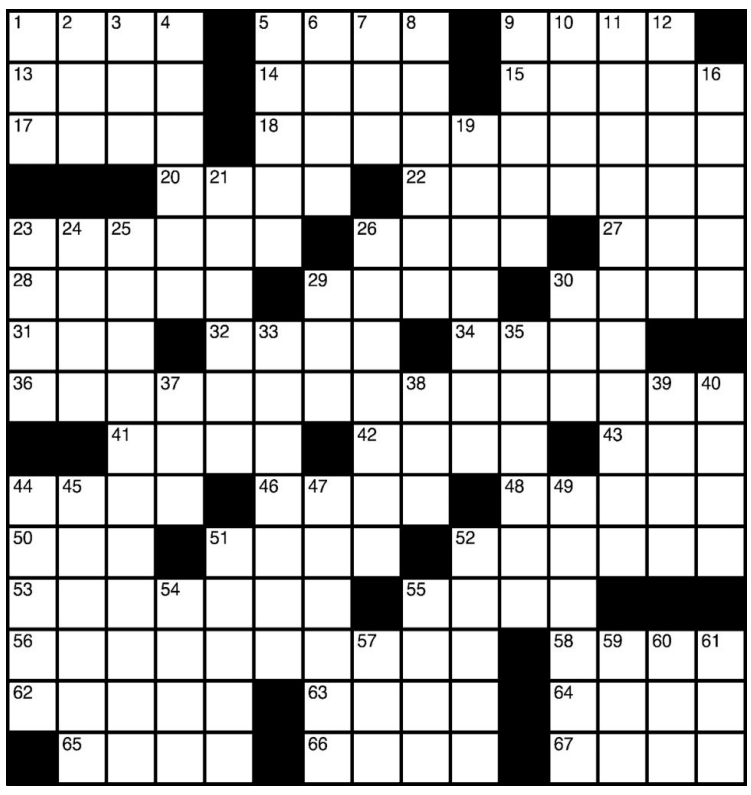
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 "The Divine Comedy," e.g.
5 Bubbly brand
9 They're not gentlemen
13 Robusto! sauce maker
14 Letter on a dreidel
15 Archaeological site
17 #1
18 Continues despite hardship
20 #2
22 Common lot size
23 Go up
26 #3
27 __ & Perrins: Worcestershire sauce brand
28 Terse memo from the boss
29 What Phobos orbits
30 #4
31 UFO passengers
32 Billiards backspin
34 School auxiliaries, for short
36 What takes place in eight puzzle answers when read in sequence
41 Some reddish deer
42 Like granola bars
43 Hot __
44 #5
46 What many leaves do in autumn
48 Part of la famille
50 Bonding and binding words
51 #6
52 Wears out
53 Ones who belong
55 #7
56 Spies
58 #8
62 Barbershop accessory
63 Final critical moment
64 Jump that's often a triple
65 Farm females
66 Comic book shrieks
67 Take care of

Down

1 Bit of work
2 Kung __ chicken
3 Market chain with a red oval logo
4 Jewelry piece that's been cleaved or shaped
5 Long-time Syrian president
6 Wearing wingtips, say
7 Up to, in ads
8 Like some pools
9 Belief
10 Subtle glow
11 Real estate transaction requirements
12 One might keep you up
16 Golf's Slammin' Sammy
19 Behind the eight ball
21 Tense
23 "Wait __!"
24 Green of Austin Powers films
25 He was The Joker on TV's "Batman"
26 London-born Rat Packer
29 Chinese chairman
30 Map line: Abbr.
33 Remedy for a freeze
35 Attempt to get
37 Doze
38 Devotee
39 Negative words of agreement?
40 Biblical plot
44 Long rides?
45 Masters
47 Bearish
49 Cardinal's headgear
51 A lot more than a little
52 Classroom furniture
54 Sweat spot
55 "Dang!"
57 Compete
59 Application file suffix
60 Cartoon canine
61 Overdone



By Bruce Venzke — Tribune Content Agency 1/27/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 5
♥ A J 7 4
♦ Q 8 3
♣ K 10 4

WEST
♠ 2
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ K J 5 2
♣ A J 7 3

EAST
♠ 9 3
♥ 9 6 2
♦ A 10 4
♣ Q 9 6 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A J 10 8 7 6 4
♥ K 3
♦ 9 7 6
♣ 8

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠

Opening lead — two of diamonds.

A one-shot decision

Certain defensive plays are considered by many to be virtually automatic, such as playing second-hand low or covering an honor with an honor. But those with sufficient experience have learned that there are exceptions to all such "rules."

Take this case where a defender could easily go wrong playing by rote. West had a choice of unattractive leads against four spades and finally settled on the two of diamonds. Declarer played low from dummy, and East, after considerable thought, inserted the ten! When this held, the defenders quickly collected the A-K of diamonds and ace of clubs to put South down one.

As can be seen, had East played the ace of diamonds rather than the ten — paying blind obeisance to the rule of "third-hand high" — declarer would have made the contract. The question, therefore, is why did East decide to play the ten?

The answer lies in East's assessment that rising with the ace would almost surely hand South the contract. After dummy came down, East could see that, in due course, declarer would score seven spades, the ace of hearts and the king of clubs. East also knew from his partner's lead of the diamond deuce (fourth-best) that South had three diamonds.

The play of the ace at trick one would thus ultimately establish the diamond queen as declarer's 10th trick.

East could think of only one case where putting up the ace would be right. If South held [S]AJxxxxx [H]xx [D]Jxx [C]x, East would have to take the diamond ace and return a heart before declarer could establish the king of clubs for a heart discard.

But East reasoned that if declarer had this hand, West would have led the heart king from K-Q-x-x rather than a diamond from K-x-x-x. East therefore placed South with the king or queen of hearts, which meant that playing the diamond ten offered the best chance to defeat the contract.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEYID

PZTAO

NOIWDW

ONBTEN



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"___ ___" ___ ___

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWISH MODEM LIZARD LARGER
Answer: His mother-in-law had questions about his outdoor cooking techniques, so she — GRILLED HIM

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TODAY'S SUDOKU

			4		9			5
	7						4	8
		5						
2		1		8				
	8	4				6	3	
				7		2		4
						4		6
5	9						1	
1			5		7			3

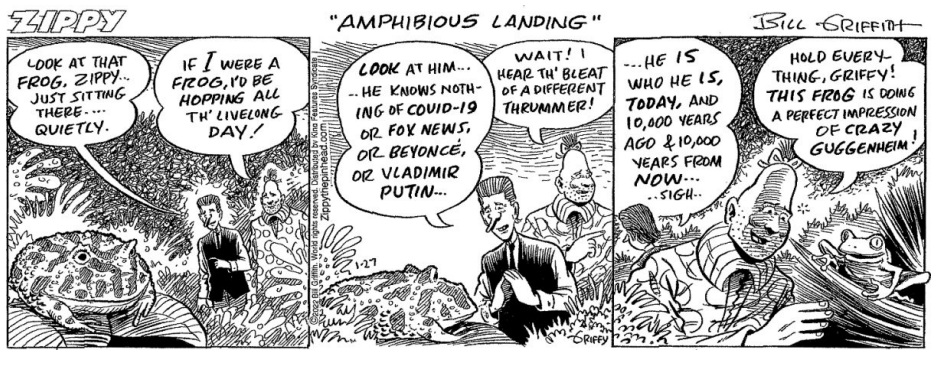
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

7	2	1	5	6	4	8	3	9
6	4	8	3	1	9	2	5	7
3	9	5	2	8	7	6	1	4
9	8	4	6	2	3	5	7	1
1	6	3	8	7	5	4	9	2
2	5	7	9	4	1	3	6	8
5	1	6	4	9	2	7	8	3
8	7	2	1	3	6	9	4	5
4	3	9	7	5	8	1	2	6

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

B	E	R	M	■	A	G	E	S	■	E	R	E	C	T
A	R	I	A	■	D	E	C	I	■	M	I	X	E	R
B	A	C	K	T	O	T	H	E	F	U	T	U	R	E
A	S	K	E	R	■	S	O	S	A	■	E	D	E	N
■	■	■	M	E	S	A	■	T	I	S	■	E	S	T
S	I	D	E	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	■	■	■
O	N	E	■	■	E	A	U	■	■	A	L	O	H	A
D	I	F	F	R	E	N	T	S	T	R	O	K	E	S
A	T	T	E	A	■	■	H	E	Y	■	■	O	R	S
■	■	■	B	R	E	A	S	T	P	O	C	K	E	T
A	S	P	■	E	W	R	■	S	E	A	L	■	■	■
R	O	E	S	■	E	A	S	T	■	T	A	P	A	S
B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	S	H	R	I	M	P
O	T	T	E	R	■	A	Y	L	A	■	E	P	E	E
R	H	Y	M	E	■	T	E	E	M	■	T	E	N	D



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Madison High School
- June 6, 2017 -

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Hartford Courant
SPORTS
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

KNICKS

Walker's knee hobbles guard's leadership opportunities

By Steve Popper
Newsday

MIAMI — While the Knicks were finishing off the morning shootaround at FTX Arena Wednesday, Kemba Walker was on the court working through final preparations. And Tom Thibodeau was off to the side engaged in a long discussion with Derrick Rose.

Thibodeau likes to focus on the present and Rose is likely at least a month away from returning following ankle surgery.

But even if Thibodeau was the NBA's Coach of the Year last season and Julius Randle earned awards and accolades, Rose was arguably the most important piece to the Knicks' success.

So for now, Thibodeau must trust in Walker to hold down the point guard spot as the Knicks navigate a difficult stretch of the schedule. And that trust has been tested, not just by the team's 23-25 record or Walker's production and fit, but by his availability.

"It's tough, especially for me," Walker said. "I'm a competitor. I love to play basketball, want to be on the court as much as I can. This is something I've been dealing with for a few years now. Trying to look out for myself. I want to be able to play for some more years down the line. I've got to take it day by day."

For Walker, this balance has meant trying to find his fit with the Knicks. Signed as a free agent after being traded by the Celtics and bought out by the Thunder, the excitement about returning home to New York has been dampened by the cold realities of the season. He was benched and sat out 10 games earlier this season, returned for six games and then was sidelined again after tweaking his knee in warmups in Oklahoma City on New Year's Eve.

He came back for two games, then sat out Sunday against the Clippers in the first half of a back-to-back set, a reality that he and the Knicks may have to face just as the Celtics did last season. And for Thibodeau, this means trying to fit a team together with the on-court leadership passed from player to player almost on a nightly basis.

"It's the reality of it," Thibodeau said. "We do have good depth. I like the way Alec [Burks] has played. Unfortunately Rose being out for a time has hurt us, too. And [Immanuel Quickley] can fill in."

GIANTS

New GM embraces a harsh reality

Schoen acknowledges franchise behind the chains, has a lot of ground to make up

By Tom Rock
Newsday

NEW YORK — Introductory news conferences are supposed to be filled with hope and optimism, promises of success and plans for the future.

Joe Schoen, the new general manager of the Giants and the honoree at Wednesday's shindig, stood there talking about the bad roster he has inherited ("some positions are devoid of talent"), the mismanaged salary cap he'll have to mend ('it's a concern and it's real") and the timeline he has for bringing the Giants back into contention ("it's not going to happen overnight"). Each comment he made, each question he answered, seemed to paint an even gloomier picture of the franchise he is charged with fixing.

Schoen was introduced on a stage in the team's fieldhouse flanked by two banners celebrating the championship squads from 1986 and 1990. At the other end of the building dangled similar tapestries for the 2007 and 2011 teams.

Those glory days have never seemed further away than they were on Wednesday.

"I don't take this lightly," he said of his new job and new responsibilities.

Nor should he, given how heavy of a lift he is attempting.

Schoen is the fifth general manager in Giants history and walks into what is inarguably the second-worst situation of his predecessors. Only George Young, who came aboard a rotten-hulled ship in 1979 — the year Schoen was born — can possibly claim to have started from a lower rung or have had less to work with at the beginning of his tenure. These Giants haven't won a postseason game in a decade, have been to the playoffs just once since then, and have had five straight seasons with 10 or more losses.

The enormity of the task is not lost on Schoen, though he may be a little disconnected from the disgust those in the

Turn to Giants, Page 2

Inside
Giants showing serious interest in former Dolphins coach Brian Flores as Brian Daboll completes second interview. **Page 2**

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL



UConn's Jordan Hawkins reacts to a play against Georgetown on Tuesday in Storrs. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

AGENTS OF CHANGE

With Whaley back to full strength, UConn has all the tools they need to make noise



Dom Amore

STORRS — The UConn men's basketball team has answered a critical question in its recent games. How deep are the Huskies?

Long before halftime against Georgetown on Tuesday night, nine players had been in the game and eight had scored.

Coach Dan Hurley wanted a UConn team where it would be hard to get on the floor and, indeed, he has several touted players fighting just to see the light of day.

"Everybody [has] embraced their roles," graduate forward Isaiah Whaley said after UConn's 96-73 win over the Hoyas. "Everybody's starting to see what they can do to help us win games. We're just going at each other every day, it's like a battlefield every day in practice."

The Huskies have won four in a row, the last three by double digits. They have the look of a

Turn to Amore, Page 4



Isaiah Whaley was back to being his active, exuberant self, with 15 points and seven rebounds vs. Georgetown in UConn's 96-73 win. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Freshman Hawkins making adjustments that are paying off in victories for Huskies

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

It looks like Jordan Hawkins is starting to get out of his own way.

On Tuesday night, the freshman guard dropped 15 points in the UConn men's basketball team's 96-73 victory over Georgetown at Gampel Pavilion. It was the sixth time he has scored in double figures this season — all victories — and the second time in three games.

Up next
UConn at DePaul
6:30 p.m.
Saturday, FS1

In just 13 minutes, Hawkins made a significant impact with his sharpshooting. He went 4-for-7 from the field, including 3-for-3 from beyond the arc. He didn't do anything crazy on the offensive end, he just made his shots when given the opportunity. Hawkins' shot profile included a couple of tough transition 3s and some tightly contested makes.

In previous games, Hawkins would overdrib-

Turn to Hawkins, Page 4



SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at DePaul, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.; Creighton (XL), Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.; at Villanova, Feb. 5, noon
UConn WBB: at Providence, Sunday, 11 a.m.; at Creighton, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Butler (Gampel), Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Celtics: at Hawks, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pelicans, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Heat, Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: at Bucks, Friday, 10 p.m.; Kings, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; Grizzlies, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Warriors, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; at Suns, Tuesday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Wednesday, 10 p.m.
UConn hockey: vs. Yale (CT Collegiate Tourney), Saturday, 3:30 p.m.; vs. Quinnipiac/Sacred Heart (CT Collegiate Tourney), Sunday, time TBD; Providence, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Coyotes, Friday, 9 p.m.; at Stars, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Kraken, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: at Blue Jackets, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Wild, Friday, 8 p.m.; Kraken, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; Lehigh Valley, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Hershey, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL

6 p.m.: Women's College: Syracuse at Notre Dame. (Live) ACC
6 p.m.: Women's College: Ole Miss at South Carolina. (Live) ESPN
6:30 p.m.: Women's College: Missouri at Mississippi State. (Live) SEC
7 p.m.: Gardner-Webb at UNC-Asheville. (Live) ESPNU
7:30 p.m.: Lakers at 76ers. (Live) TNT
8 p.m.: Women's College: Florida State at Louisville. (Live) ACC
8 p.m.: Ohio State at Minnesota. (Live) ESPN
8:30 p.m.: Women's College: LSU at Arkansas. (Live) SEC
9 p.m.: Alabama-Birmingham at Western Kentucky. (Live) CBSSN
9 p.m.: East Carolina at Memphis. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Morehead State at Southeast Missouri State. (Live) ESPNU
9 p.m.: Purdue at Iowa. (Live) FS1
10 p.m.: Timberwolves at Warriors. (Live) TNT
11 p.m.: Loyola Marymount at Gonzaga. (Live) CBSSN
11 p.m.: BYU at Santa Clara. (Live) ESPNU
11 p.m.: Stanford at USC. (Live) FS1

GOLF

11:30 a.m.: Gainbridge LPGA, First Round. (Live) GOLF
3 p.m.: Farmers Insurance Open, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
2:30 a.m.: DP World Tour Golf Slync.io Dubai Desert Classic, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

HOCKEY

7 p.m.: Rangers at Blue Jackets. (Live), MSG

SOCCER

6:30 p.m.: FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualifying United States vs El Salvador. (Live) ESPN2
6:30 p.m.: FIFA Eliminatorias Copa Mundial 2022 (Live) TELE
7 p.m.: FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualifying Jamaica vs Mexico. (Live) CBSSN
7:30 p.m.: FIFA World Cup 2022 Qualifying Honduras vs Canada. (Live) SPRTNET

TENNIS

10 p.m.: 2022 Australian Open Tennis Men's Semifinals. (Live) ESPN
3:30 a.m. Fri.: 2022 Australian Open Tennis Men's Second Semifinal. (Live) ESPN

CELTICS

Lob to Rob starts to work

By Mark Murphy
Boston Herald

BOSTON — The Celtics have never really had someone like Rob Williams. Even Robert Parish was more of a layup guy than a finisher of tip-dunks.

But as evidenced every night, Williams' mastery off the lob is being brought to the fore by the ability of Jayson Tatum, Marcus Smart et al to find in the perfect spot at the rim. And if one sails too far behind him, or somehow too high, then so be it.

"Usually, if they throw one out of reach and I say something to 'em about it, they usually say like, 'It don't matter, go get that (expletive deleted).' So it's pretty cool. No excuses. I understand," he said.

Safe to say that the art of the lob is a long-diminished part of the Celtics' game. Terry Rozier sometimes needed GPS assistance to find the right spot with a lob. But thanks to the rare ability of Williams to finish off these circus act passes, often one-handed, the passes have improved.

"I for sure feel like they got better. I wouldn't say they were bad at throwing lobs, it's just they weren't used to it," he said. "They kind of got this mindset of throw it anywhere now. So as long as they're throwing it, it's my job to go get it."

Tatum has developed a particularly sharp sense of where Williams can get to, and the relationship extends beyond lobs. Tatum, talking about Williams after Tuesday's blowout win over the Kings, repeatedly noted that he "loved" playing with Williams.

"I love playing with JT," Williams said after Wednesday's practice. "I think it's just the bond we've built on and off the court. We've been playing together three, four years. I know what spots he's trying to get to on the court. I know how to screen for him. We've got a pretty good feel for where others are going to be on the court and vice versa. He knows where I'm gonna be when he needs an outlet, so like I said, off the court we're tight, so it all plays into each other."



The Celtics' Rob Williams looks on during a 2019 game against the Wizards at Capital One Arena in Washington, DC. **GETTY FILE**

Williams, in turn, has covered up a lot of mistakes by his teammates in the defensive end. He often makes them look good with his rise as a rim protector.

"It's huge," Ime Udoka said of Williams' defensive impact. "We've done some different things, whether he's guarding the big and switching on or put him off-ball, he's able to protect the rim a little more there. So we found some things we like with him defensively.

"But we challenged our guys, individual defense in general, that's the start of us being a good defensive team," said the Celtics coach. "And knowing he's back there to protect as well as well as some size in general I think it let's guys be a little more aggressive on the perimeter. But those guys have really been good the past few games. Less mistakes in switching on and off-ball. But if there is something, Rob's back there to clean it up as well as Al and some other big wings. I think we have a nice thing going as far as that and want to continue it against an Atlanta team that's playing really well."



Giants new general manager Joe Schoen speaks during a news conference at the team's training facility Wednesday in East Rutherford, N.Y. **JOHN MINCHILLO/AP**

Giants

from Page 1

New York area have for this team's most recent misadventures compared to the quasi-struggles he went through in Buffalo as assistant general manager the past five seasons.

Suggesting that the Bills' turnaround was not as abrupt as it seemed, he noted that his first year with the team they went 9-7 and only barely made the playoffs. What Giants fan wouldn't have loved for that to have happened just once in the last five years? He pointed out that his second year in Buffalo the Bills went 6-10. That would have been the best season of the last five for this franchise. And he said that when the Bills lost to the Patriots in that windswept Monday night game in December people were "crushing" them for it, calling them "paper tigers." That loss dropped their record to 7-5. The Giants have not been above .500 at any point in these past five seasons of misery.

It is, ultimately, the job Schoen and general manager Brandon Beane did in Buffalo that drew the Giants to him as a candidate. It's also what the Giants hope he can replicate for them.

"He's seen how it should be done," co-owner John Mara said. "We're in a similar situation to what they were in four or five years ago."

There were other things Mara said impressed him about Schoen, including his eye for talent, his poise and — he mentioned it twice — his background. Schoen started his NFL journey in ticket sales for the Panthers fresh out of college, graduating on a Saturday and starting his new job on a Monday. In the 21 years since he has climbed through the ranks of scouting departments in Carolina, Miami and Buffalo to now one of the 32 most prestigious jobs in the league.

"He started at the very bottom and worked his way up," Mara said.

Just like the Giants are going to have to do.

Cue the rays of sunshine. Finally.

"We're going to roll up our sleeves," Schoen said. "I promise you that I will do everything in my power to build a team that will make you proud, on the field and off the field. We're going to have to find a way. That's what we're here for. We can all talk about what the problems are but our job is to find solutions."

When the team brought Schoen in from Buffalo to New Jersey for his in-person interview last week the travel plans had to be made in a hurry and there were not many options. Schoen wound up on a flight but was stuck, Mara said, with "a middle seat in the rear of the plane next to the restroom."

That's kind of where the Giants are now. The first-class teams are still alive in the postseason. There are some business-class seats for other teams to be somewhat comfortable. Mostly there are coach seats that are lumpy and crammed with the also-rans of the league.

And then there are the Giants. Right next to the restroom.

"He never complained a bit about it," Mara said of Schoen's reaction to the less than luxurious travel accommodations.

It was, of course, a pretty short flight to endure.

The Giants have been stuck in steerage for most of the past decade.

If Schoen can get them an upgrade —– even if it's not to first class — maybe Wednesday will be remembered more for the start of a new era rather than a rehashing of the sins of the old one.

GIANTS

Interest in Flores starting to grow

By Pat Leonard
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Brian Flores has had eyes for the Giants since his Dolphins firing. And the Giants are reciprocating his interest.

Sources tell the Daily News that members of the Giants organization have contacted multiple members of the Dolphins' support staff and assistant coaches to do due diligence on Flores ahead of his scheduled Thursday interview in East Rutherford.

And they've received encouraging and glowing reviews in return.

The Giants aren't shy about acknowledging that they've done meaningful work on Flores.

They make calls on all candidates, but this homework on Flores' time in Miami reflects a specifically thorough process on him, reinforces the Giants' serious interest, and indicates the feedback is positive.

That's important because there was plenty of negative noise on how Flores' tenure in Miami ended, though sources say the coach's main sticking point with the organization centered on its need for improvement at quarterback.

It's hard to blame Flores for wanting more after watching the transcendent level of play from the Bills' Josh Allen and the Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes this past Sunday.

Whether the Giants could quench Flores' thirst for an elite quarterback is a fair question. But even if they give Daniel Jones one more year to prove himself, at least the Giants have a new GM in Joe Schoen who knows what a great QB looks like, having helped draft Allen to the Bills in 2018.

Flores overachieved in Miami, going 24-25 overall, but 19-14 in his final two years after fighting through a 2019 tank attempt. He won eight of his last nine games.

Schoen's Bills colleague, Buffalo offensive coordinator Brian Daboll, still seems like the Giants' frontrunner after a second interview on Tuesday that went well, by all accounts.

Giants defensive coordinator Pat Graham is expected to interview today. Flores will go Thursday, and Bills defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier also landed a second interview in person Friday in East Rutherford.

Bengals defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo only would be able to do a second interview after the AFC Championship Game on Sunday, so it's not clear whether that interview will or can happen.

The Giants already have shown keen interest in Cowboys defensive coordinator Dan Quinn, who interviewed in person Monday. They reached out to him before Schoen's hiring to make sure he was aware of their interest, and their defensive coordinator interview request for Quinn's Dallas colleague, Joe Whitt Jr., reflected their work on Quinn, too.

But Giants co-owner John Mara also made sure to connect with people close to Flores last week, which was a significant step by the Giants' president and CEO to express interest specifically in Miami's unexpectedly available coach.

And since, the Giants' work behind the scenes has reflected that Thursday's interview puts Flores firmly in play to compete for the job.


Former Dolphins head coach Brian Flores directs his team against the Patriots on Jan. 9 in Miami Gardens, Fla. **WILFREDO LEE/AP**

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME COMMENTARY

Bonds, Clemens and Schilling are now off ballot. So, what comes next?

By Peter Abraham
Boston Globe

BOSTON — A day after, it feels like the Hall of Fame ballot has been power-washed.

Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, and Curt Schilling are gone, swept out to the Cooperstown curb after 10 years of endless debate, indecision, and rancor.

As a voter who checked off Bonds, Clemens, and Schilling for 10 years, I believe they should be in the Hall. They played leading roles in the history of the game.

But support doesn't equate to sympathy.

Bonds and Clemens made the conscious choice to use performance enhancers so they could remain dominant players into their 40s.

Bonds made $75 million over his final four seasons and Clemens $53 million. Bonds was 43 when he broke Hank Aaron's home run record. Clemens was 42 when he won his seventh Cy Young Award. Their accomplishments carry no asterisks.

Clemens wrote on Twitter that he played baseball "to make a generational difference in the lives of my family," not to make the Hall of Fame. Mission accomplished.

Schilling is a different story because the Hall of Fame does matter to him. He's an avid student of the game's history and appreciates those who came before him.

He is not a no-question Hall of Famer. His case requires an appreciation of more than wins, losses, and earned run average. It was clearly there if you looked.

Now Bonds, Clemens, and Schilling place their hopes in the hands of the Today's Game Committee, a 16-member panel that will meet in December to consider players, managers, umpires, and executives whose greatest contributions came after 1988.

Think the writers had trouble deciding what to do with them? Buckle up.

The committee is made up of Hall of Famers, baseball executives, and veteran media members. It meets twice every five years to consider 10 candidates. Twelve votes are needed for induction.

But there are several trap doors. The ballot is chosen by a group of 11 writers and historians. Then once the ballot gets to the committee, voters are allowed a maximum of four choices.

There's also no transparency, either. The votes are secret and typically what happens in the room stays in the room.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	29	18	.617	—
Philadelphia	28	19	.596	1
Toronto	23	22	.511	5
Boston	25	24	.510	5
New York	23	25	.479	6 ½
SOUTHEAST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Miami	30	17	.638	—
Charlotte	26	22	.542	4 ½
Washington	23	25	.479	7 ½
Atlanta	21	25	.457	8 ½
Orlando	9	39	.188	21 ½
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Chicago	29	17	.630	—
Milwaukee	30	19	.612	½
Cleveland	29	19	.604	1
Indiana	17	31	.354	13
Detroit	11	36	.234	18 ½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	32	17	.653	—
Dallas	27	21	.563	4 ½
New Orleans	18	29	.383	13
San Antonio	18	30	.375	13 ½
Houston	14	34	.292	17 ½
NORTHWEST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Utah	30	18	.625	—
Denver	25	21	.543	4
Minnesota	24	23	.511	5 ½
Portland	20	27	.426	9 ½
Oklahoma City	14	33	.298	15 ½
PACIFIC	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Phoenix	37	9	.804	—
Golden State	35	13	.729	3
L.A. Lakers	24	24	.500	14
L.A. Clippers	24	25	.490	14 ½
Sacramento	18	31	.367	20 ½

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte at Indiana, late
L.A. Clippers at Orlando, late
Milwaukee at Cleveland, late
New York at Miami, late
Sacramento at Atlanta, late
Denver at Brooklyn, late
Toronto at Chicago, late
Memphis at San Antonio, late
Dallas at Portland, late
Phoenix at Utah, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Minnesota at Golden State, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 117, New Orleans 107
Toronto 125, Charlotte 113
Denver 110, Detroit 105
Boston 128, Sacramento 75
L.A. Clippers 116, Washington 115
L.A. Lakers 106, Brooklyn 96
San Antonio 134, Houston 104
Golden State 130, Dallas 92
Minnesota 109, Portland 107

GOLF

PGA FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN
1st of 4 rounds, La Jolla, Calif, a-Torrey Pines - South (Host Course), 7,765 yards; Par 72, b-Torrey Pines - North 7,258 yards; Par 72

Billy Horschel	31b-32b—63	-9
Michael Thompson	31b-33b—64	-8
Stephan Jaeger	32b-33b—65	-7
Kevin Tway	32b-33b—65	-7
Rickie Fowler	33b-33b—66	-6
Doug Ghim	33b-33b—66	-6
Francesco Molinari	32b-34b—66	-6
Jon Rahm	33a-33a—66	-6
Daniel Berger	35b-32b—67	-5
Sam Burns	34b-33b—67	-5
Tony Finau	32b-35b—67	-5
Dylan Frittelli	33b-34b—67	-5
Michael Gligic	34b-33b—67	-5
Bill Haas	34b-33b—67	-5
Nick Hardy	34b-33b—67	-5
Martin Laird	34b-33b—67	-5
Luke List	33a-34a—67	-5
Peter Malnati	34a-33a—67	-5
Maverick McNealy	33b-34b—67	-5
Ryan Palmer	35b-32b—67	-5
C.T. Pan	32b-35b—67	-5
Taylor Pendrith	33b-34b—67	-5
Aaron Rai	36b-31b—67	-5
Justin Rose	34b-33b—67	-5
Austin Smotherman	34b-33b—67	-5
Robert Streb	33b-34b—67	-5
Sahith Theegala	35b-32b—67	-5
Cameron Tringale	33a-34a—67	-5
Aaron Wise	34b-33b—67	-5
Cameron Young	34b-33b—67	-5
Cameron Davis	32b-36b—68	-4
Max Homa	36b-32b—68	-4
Dustin Johnson	32a-36a—68	-4
David Lipsky	34b-34b—68	-4
Matthew NeSmith	36b-32b—68	-4
Xander Schauffele	36b-32b—68	-4
Justin Thomas	31a-37a—68	-4
Chris. Bezuidenhout	35b-34b—69	-3
Jonathan Byrd	34b-35b—69	-3
Wyndham Clark	31a-38a—69	-3
Chesson Hadley	34b-35b—69	-3
Tom Hoge	35b-34b—69	-3
Mark Hubbard	36b-33b—69	-3
Ben Kohles	34b-35b—69	-3
Joaquin Niemann	34a-35a—69	-3
Mito Pereira	34a-35a—69	-3
Seth Reeves	35b-34b—69	-3
Adam Schenk	33a-36a—69	-3
Scott Stallings	33b-36b—69	-3
Brian Stuard	34b-35b—69	-3
Jimmy Walker	32b-37b—69	-3
Will Zalatoris	33a-36a—69	-3
Jonas Blixt	36b-34b—70	-2
Keegan Bradley	34a-36a—70	-2
Bronson Burgoon	35b-35b—70	-2
Jason Day	34a-36a—70	-2
Bryson DeChambeau	36b-34b—70	-2
Brandon Hagy	35b-35b—70	-2
Mackenzie Hughes	37b-33b—70	-2
Sungjae Im	36b-34b—70	-2
Patton Kizzire	34b-36b—70	-2
Brooks Koepka	34b-36b—70	-2
Trey Mullinax	35b-35b—70	-2
Alex Noren	33a-37a—70	-2
Chez Reavie	33a-37a—70	-2
Davis Riley	35b-35b—70	-2
Scottie Scheffler	35a-35a—70	-2
Brandt Snedeker	36b-34b—70	-2
Jordan Spieth	36b-34b—70	-2
Kevin Streelman	36a-34a—70	-2
Hudson Swafford	34b-36b—70	-2
Curtis Thompson	35b-35b—70	-2
Camilo Villegas	36b-34b—70	-2
Brandon Wu	34b-36b—70	-2
Dylan Wu	34b-36b—70	-2

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL THURSDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Wisconsin	7½	at Nebraska
at Appalachian St.	4½	Arkansas State
Hofstra	2½	at Charleston (SC)
at Elon	9	William & Mary
at JMU	2	Drexel
at Marshall	1	Middle Tennessee
at Detroit Mercy	7½	Illinois-Chicago
at Youngstown St.	7½	Green Bay
at NC Wilmington	5	Northeastern
at Co. Carolina	12	Ark. Little Rock
at Robert Morris	1	Milwaukee
Murray State	12	at Tennessee Tech
at Towson	6½	Delaware
at Louisiana Tech	11	Rice
at La Monroe	1	Georgia Southern
Loyola Chicago	6½	at S. Illinois
at South Dakota	1	North Dakota St.
Oral Roberts	13½	at Neb. Omaha
Utah Valley	12	at Chicago State
Ohio State	6	at Minnesota
Texas State	2	at Tex Arlington
at No. Colorado	1	Weber State
at La-Lafayette	4	Georgia State

NBA THURSDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Philadelphia	1½	(217½)	LA Lakers
at Golden State	5½	(228)	Minnesota

NHL THURSDAY

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Tampa Bay	-297	New Jersey	+283
at Pittsburgh	-293	Seattle	+275
at Florida	-155	Vegas	+145
at Columbus	off	NY Rangers	off
at NY Islanders	-140	Los Angeles	+130
Carolina	240	at Ottawa	+230
at Montreal	off	Anaheim	off
at Winnipeg	-163	Vancouver	+151
at St. Louis	-136	Calgary	+112
at Edmonton	-117	Nashville	+107

NFL PLAYOFFS SUNDAY

FAVORITE	SP	O/U	UNDERDOG
at Kansas City	7	(54½)	Cincinnati
at LA Rams	3½	(46)	San Francisco

Team To Score Most Points in NFL Conference Finals

Kansas City	-140	L.A. Rams	+350
Cincinnati	+450	San Francisco	+550

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, ttps://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Florida	43	29	9	5	63	175	125
Tampa Bay	43	28	10	5	61	149	123
Toronto	38	25	10	3	53	129	100
Boston	39	24	13	2	50	122	107
Detroit	42	18	18	6	42	113	139
Buffalo	42	13	22	7	33	111	147
Ottawa	36	13	20	3	29	103	125
Montreal	41	8	26	7	23	90	154
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
N.Y. Rangers	43	28	11	4	60	132	110
Pittsburgh	42	27	10	5	59	145	111
Carolina	39	28	9	2	58	140	94
Washington	43	23	11	9	55	139	118
Columbus	39	18	20	1	37	121	139
N.Y. Islanders	35	15	14	6	36	84	94
New Jersey	41	15	21	5	35	118	145
Philadelphia	43	13	22	8	34	106	148

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	40	29	8	3	61	167	118
Nashville	44	27	14	3	57	138	120
St. Louis	42	25	12	5	55	147	116
Minnesota	38	25	10	3	53	149	115
Dallas	40	22	16	2	46	120	121
Winnipeg	39	17	15	7	41	114	119
Chicago	42	15	20	7	37	99	137
Arizona	41	10	27	4	24	92	158
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Vegas	43	25	15	3	53	149	129
Anaheim	44	21	16	7	49	130	126
Los Angeles	43	21	16	6	48	121	118
Calgary	37	19	12	6	44	120	94
San Jose	42	21	19	2	44	115	131
Edmonton	38	20	16	2	42	125	128
Vancouver	42	18	19	5	41	105	119
Seattle	42	13	25	4	30	112	152

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Anaheim at Toronto, late
Calgary at Columbus, late
San Jose at Washington, late
Chicago at Detroit, late
Boston at Colorado, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Anaheim at Montreal, 7p.m.
Carolina at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Los Angeles at N.Y. Islanders, 7p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Columbus, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Seattle at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
Vegas at Florida, 7p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 8p.m.
Vancouver at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
Nashville at Edmonton, 9p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 7p.m.
Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Boston at Arizona, 9p.m.
Washington at Dallas, 9p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 3
Ottawa 5, Buffalo 0
Dallas 5, New Jersey 1
Carolina 4, Vegas 3 (OT)
N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3
Florida 5, Winnipeg 3
Nashville 4, Seattle 2
Edmonton 3, Vancouver 2 (OT)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

VICTORIES	W	TM	L	OL	SO
Tristan Jarry	23	PIT	7	4	3
Juuse Saros	23	NSH	11	2	2
Andrei Vasilevskiy	23	TBL	7	3	2
Frederik Andersen	22	CAR	6	0	1
Sergei Bobrovsky	21	FLA	4	3	1
Igor Shesterkin	20	NYR	4	2	3
Jack Campbell	19	TOR	6	3	4
Darcy Kuemper	19	COL	5	1	1

through Tuesday

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
SATURDAY, FEB. 5
Burnley vs. Watford, 1p.m.

U.S. MEN'S SCHEDULE
q-Thursday: vs. El Salvador, 6:30 p.m
q-Sunday: at Canada at Hamilton, Ontario, 3:05 p.m.
q- Feb. 2: vs. Honduras at St. Paul, Minn., 7:30 p.m.
q-World Cup qualifying

NFL PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday's games
AFC: No. 4 Cincinnati (12-7) at No. 2 Kansas City (14-5), 3:05 p.m.
NFC: No. 6 San Francisco (12-7) at No. 4 L.A. Rams (14-5), 6:40 p.m.

SUPER BOWL LVI
Sunday, Feb. 13 at Sofi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.
Conference champions, 6:30 p.m

PLAYOFF TOP PERFORMERS
PASSING
404: Patrick Mahomes II, KC vs. PIT 1/16 (30-39, 5 TD)
378: Patrick Mahomes II, KC vs. BUF 1/23 (OT) (33-44, 3 TD)
366: Matthew Stafford, LAR at TB 1/23 (28-38, 2 TD)
348: Joe Burrow, CIN at TEN 1/22 (28-37, 0 TD)
329: Josh Allen, BUF at KC 1/23 (OT) (27-37, 4 TD)
329: Tom Brady, TB vs. LAR 1/23 (30-54, 1 TD)
310: Derek Carr, LAS at CIN 1/15 (29-54, 1 TD)
308: Josh Allen, BUF vs. NE 1/15 (21-25, 5 TD)
RUSHING
96: Elijah Miethcll, SFat DAL 1/16 (27 car., TD)
83: Josh Jacobs, OAK at CIN 1/15 (13 car, 0 TD)
81: Devin Singletary, BUF vs. NE 1/15 (16 car, 2 TD)
72: Deebo Samuel, SF at DAL 1/16 (10 car, TD
RECEIVING
201: Gabriel Davis, BUF at KC 1/23 (OT) (8 rec., 4 TD)
183: Cooper Kupp, LAR at TB 1/23 (9 rec., 1 TD)
150: Tyreek Hill, KC vs. BUF 1/23 (OT) (11 rec., 1 TD)
142: A.J. Brown, TEN vs. CIN 1/22 (5 rec., 1 TD)
129: Aaron Jones, GB vs. SF 1/22 (9 rec., 0 TD)
119: Mike Evans, TB vs. LAR 1/23 (8 rec., 1 TD)
117: Mike Evans, TB vs. PHI 1/16 (9 rec., 1 TD)
116: Ja'Marr Chase, CIN vs. LAS 1/15 (9 rec., 0 TD)
109: Ja'Marr Chase, CIN at TEN 1/22 (5 rec., 0 TD)
108: Travis Kelce, KC vs. PIT 1/16 (5 rec., 1 TD)

TEAM HIGHS, LOWS
MOST POINTS
47: Buffalo vs. New Engaldn 1-15
42: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23(OT)
42: Kansas City vs. Pittsburg 1-16
FEWEST POINTS
10: Green Bay vs. San Francisco 1-22
11: Arizona at L.A. Rams 1-17
13: San Francisco at Green Bay 1-22
MOST TOTAL YARDS
552: Kansas City vs. Buffao 1-23(OT)
482: Buffalo vs. New England 1-15
478: Kansas City vs. Pittsburgh 1-16
FEWEST TOTAL YARDS
183: Arizona at L.A. Rams 1-17
MOST RUSHING YARDS
182: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)
174: Buffalo vs. New England 1-15
169: San Francisco at Dallas 1-16
MOST NET PASSING YARDS
372: Kansas City vs. Pittsburgh 1-16
370: Kanas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)
355: L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay 1-23
TTIMES SACKED BY OPPONENT
9, Cincinnati at Tennessee 1-22
PASSES HAD INTERCEPTED
3: Tennessee vs. Cincinnati 1-22
TURNOVERS
4: Tampa Bay vs. L.A. Rams 1-23
FIRST DOWNS
30: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)
PENALTIES
14: Dallas vs. San Francisco 1-16
TIME OF POSSESSION
36:38: Kansas City vs. Buffalo 1-23 (OT)

TENNIS

110TH AUSTRALIAN OPEN
Wednesday at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, outdoors-hard
MEN'S QUARTERFINAL SINGLES
#2 Daniil Medvedev d. #9 Felix Auger-Aliassime, 6-7(4), 3-6, 7-6(2), 7-5, 6-4.

AUGER-ALIASSIME	T: 4:42	MEDVEDEV
18	Aces	15
4	Double faults	9
69%	1st serve in %	64%
78%	Win % on 1st serve	75%
48%	Win % on 2nd serve	51%
2-11	Break points won	3-5
41-48	Net points won	30-41
57-196	Receiving points won	48-168
64	Winners	49
1	Return winners	0
75	Unforced errors	53
6	Return unforced errors	0
182	Total points won	182
134 mph	Fastest serve	132 mph
124 mph	1st Serve average	121 mph
104 mph	2nd serve average	97 mph

#4Stefanos Tsitsipas d. #11 Jannik Sinner, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.
FRIDAY SEMIFINAL SINGLES
#2 Daniil Medvedev vs. #4 Stefanos Tsitsipas
#6 Rafael Nadal vs. #7 Matteo Berrettini

WOMEN'S QUARTERFINAL SINGLES
#7 Iga Swiatek d. Kaia Kanepi, 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-3.
#27 Danielle Collins d. Alize Cornet, 7-5, 6-1.
THURSDAY SEMIFINAL SINGLES
#1 Asheleight Barty vs. Madison Keys
#7 Iga Swiatek vs. #27Danielle Collins

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
No. 1 Auburn (19-1) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Saturday.
No. 2 Gonzaga (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Thursday.
No. 3 Arizona (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Saturday.
No. 4 Baylor (18-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Saturday.
No. 5 Kansas (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 12 Kentucky, Saturday.
No. 6 Purdue (16-3) did not play. Next: at Iowa, Thursday.
No. 7 Houston (17-2) did not play. Next: at UCF, Saturday.
No. 7 UCLA (14-2) did not play. Next: vs. California, Thursday.
No. 9 Duke (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. Louisville, Saturday.
No. 10 Michigan State (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Saturday.
No. 11 Wisconsin (15-3) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Thursday.
No. 12 Kentucky (16-4) did not play. Next: at No. 5 Kansas, Saturday.
No. 13 Texas Tech (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. Mississippi State, Saturday.
No. 14 Villanova (15-5) did not play. Next: vs. St. John's, Saturday.
No. 15 Southern Cal (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Stanford, Thursday.
No. 16 Ohio State (12-4) did not play. Next: at Minnesota, Thursday.
No. 17 Providence (17-2) beat No. 21 Xavier 65-62. Next: vs. No. 22 Marqueette, Saturday.
No. 18 Tennessee (14-5) beat Florida 78-71. Next: at Texas, Saturday.
No. 19 LSU (15-4) vs. Texas A&M. Next: at TCU, Saturday.
No. 20 UConn (14-4) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Saturday.
No. 21 Xavier (14-5) lost to No. 17 Providence 65-62. Next: at Creighton, Saturday.
No. 22 Marquette (14-6) Next: at Seton Hall. Next: at No. 17 Providence, Saturday.
No. 23 Iowa State (14-5) at Oklahoma State. Next: vs. Missouri, Saturday.
No. 24 Illinois (14-5) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.
No. 25 Davidson (16-2) vs. VCU. Next: vs. La Salle, Saturday.

WEDNESDAY'S SCORES
EAST
Boston U. 81, Lafayette 62
Catholic 84, Goucher 40
Coast Guard 77, Worcester Tech 55
Emerson 98, Springfield 77
Lehigh 84, Army 71
Navy 81, Bucknell 63
New Hampshire 73, Maine 61
Rhode Island Coll. 83, S. Maine 73
Saint Joseph's 72, Duquesne 61
St. Joseph's (LI) 88, Purchast 52
Vermont 80, Stony Brook 67
SOUTH
Arkansas 64, Mississippi 55
Campbell 75, Hampton 60
Charlotte 71, Old Dominion 67
Chattanooga 71, Wofford 60
Furman 79, VMI 64
Georgia College 69, Lander 46
High Point 63, Radford 58
Miami 78, Virginia Tech 75
North Carolina 58, Boston College 47
Queens (NC) 76, Newberry 61
SMU 74, South Florida 54
Southern Wesleyan 86, Lees-Mcrae 67
Tennessee 78, Florida 71
Transylvania 85, Manchester 64
UNC-Greensboro 80, ETSU 76
Winthrop 95, SC-Upstate 91, OT
MIDWEST
Ashland 62, Lake Erie 59
Beloit 72, Lawrence 67
Bradley 71, Valparaiso 56
Hiram 89, Allegheny 77
Michigan 72, Northwestern 70
Missouri Western 79, Cent. Missouri 65
N. Iowa 64, Evansville 59
Providence 65, Xavier 62

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

POINTS/GAME	SCHOOL	PTS
Antoine Davis	Detroit Mercy	24.4
Darius McGhee	Liberty	23.0
Keegan Murray	Iowa	22.8
Max Abmas	Oral Roberts	22.6
Johnny Davis	Wisconsin	22.3
Peter Kiss	Bryant	21.9
Malachi Smith	Chattanooga	21.7

through Tuesday

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED
No 1. South Carolina (18-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 Mississippi, Thursday.
No 2. Stanford (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona State, Friday.
No 3. N.C. State (18-2) did not play. Next: at North Carolina, Sunday.
No 4. Tennessee (18-1) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Thursday.
No 5. Louisville (16-2) did not play. Next: vs. Florida State, Thursday.
No 6. Indiana (14-2) did not play. Next: at No. 7 Michigan, Monday.
No 7. Michigan (17-2) did not play. Next: at No. 22 Ohio State, Thursday.
No 8. Arizona (14-2) at UCLA. Next: at No. 2 Stanford, Sunday.
No 9. Texas (14-3) vs. No. 25 Kansas State Next: at No. 18 Oklahoma, Saturday.
No 10. UConn (11-4) at DePaul. Next: at Providence, Sunday.
No 11. Baylor (13-4) at Texas Tech. Next: at West Virgina, Saturday.
No 12. LSU (17-3) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Thursday.
No 13. Iowa St. (16-3) vs. Kansas. Next: at Texas Tech, Saturday.
No 14. Georgia Tech (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Thursday.
No 15. Georgia (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 Mississippi, Sunday.
No 16. BYU (16-1) did not play. Next: vs. Santa Clara, Thursday.
No 17. Maryland (13-6) did not play. Next: vs. Rutgers, Thursday.
No 18. Oklahoma (17-3) beat Oklahoma State 84-58. Next: vs. No. 9 Texas, Saturday.
No 19. Oregon (12-5) beat Utah 70-66. Next: vs. UCLA, Friday.
No 20. Notre Dame (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Thursday.
No 21. Duke (13-4) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Thursday.
No 22. Ohio St. (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Michigan, Thursday.
No 23. Iowa (13-4) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Friday.
No 24. Mississippi (17-2) did not play. Next: at No. 1 South Carolina, Thursday.
No 25. Kansas State (15-4) at No. 9 Texas. Next: vs. TCU, Saturday.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Medvedev regains confidence, rallies

US Open champ fights off match point to make semis

By John Pye
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — He lost the first two sets, was low on confidence and was one point from a quarterfinal exit at the Australian Open, so Daniil Medvedev asked himself the question: What would Novak do?

Fair question. Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is a nine-time Australian Open champion who finished one win short of a calendar-year Grand Slam in 2021.

Modelling himself after the 20-time Grand Slam champion, Medvedev told himself late Wednesday to make Felix Auger-Aliassime fight for every point.

More than one hour after saving a match point on his serve in the fourth set, the U.S. Open champion finished off a 6-7 (4), 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5, 6-4 comeback victory almost a half-hour after midnight.

"He was playing insane, like better than I have ever seen him play. It was unreal," Medvedev said. "So third set I had zero confidence in myself and in the outcome of the match."

Medvedev mentioned his thoughts about Djokovic during his on-court TV interview and in a later news conference. He wasn't joking.

"I was not playing my best, and Felix ... was all over me," Medvedev said. "I didn't know what to do so I (asked) myself, 'What would Novak do?'

"And I just thought, OK, I'm going to make him work.

"If he wants to win it, he has to ... fight to the last point."

Medvedev will have to recover quickly to play Friday against French Open runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas in a rematch of last year's semifinals at Melbourne Park. Medvedev won at the same stage last year but lost in the final to Djokovic, who wasn't allowed to defend the title this month because he failed to meet Australia's COVID-19 vaccination rules.

Tsitsipas had a much easier path to the semifinals, beating No. 11 Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 earlier on Day 10.

Both men's quarterfinals had delays mid-match because of rain.

Medvedev got a six-minute break at 2-1 in the third-set tiebreaker for the roof on Rod Laver Arena to be closed, and it swung the momentum mostly his way.

Auger-Aliassime won only one of the last six points in the tiebreaker after dominating for the first two sets. He missed a match point on Medvedev's serve in the 10th game of the fourth set.

Medvedev saved it with a big first serve out wide and then held with an overhead winner.

He broke Auger-Aliassime's serve in the next game game and held to level the match at two-sets all. He then got another service break when the 21-year-old Canadian double-faulted in the third game of the deciding set.

It still wasn't over yet.

Serving for the match, Medvedev had to save two break points — he saved six of six in the set and nine of 11 overall — before closing it out.

After the 4-hour, 42-minute quarterfinal match, Medvedev is now two wins from becoming the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title in the next major tournament after his first.

NFL

Vikings hire Adofo-Mensah as GM

News services

The Vikings hired Kwesi Adofo-Mensah as their general manager, taking an innovative turn by bringing in an analytics expert from the Browns' front office who once worked on Wall Street.

Adofo-Mensah, the vice president of football operations for the Browns for the last two years, was one of two finalists the Vikings identified from an initial pool of eight candidates.

The other was Chiefs executive director of player personnel Ryan Poles, who was hired as GM of the Bears on Tuesday before he made it to Minnesota for his scheduled visit. Adofo-Mensah was at Vikings headquarters Tuesday for his second interview.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: at DePaul, 6:30 p.m., FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: at Providence, 11 a.m., SNY

UCONN
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Amore

from Page 1

complete team on the verge of a long roll with a player for every situation. Five players ended up scoring in double figures on Tuesday.

But even in the best stocked tool chest, there is that one gadget you can't do without. Whaley, "The Wrench," is still the one. Lost for a while, he has been found and is making the difference.

"When he does what he can do, it makes us a different team," UConn sophomore forward Adama Sanogo said.

Whaley had 15 points and seven rebounds on the heels of his double-double of 10 points, 11 rebounds at Butler last Thursday. The performances ended a string of games in which Whaley just didn't look like himself.

"He played great at Butler," said Hurley. "He got back to his identity. He wasn't right physically for the Marquette game pre-Christmas. He struggled physically with some things for a while, and I think he's getting his legs under him the last couple of games."

The 6-foot-9 Whaley is a guy with about a half dozen nicknames: "Pork Chop," for his favorite food and "Poppers," for the short jumper he was working on. "The Wrench" has stuck because he always seems the right man for the the physical job. He's a unique player who not easily substituted.

"When you have a guy who can play next to Adama, he can pass and catch and help you in the ball-screen game," Hurley said. "He's a beast on the offensive glass. When Adama gets in foul trouble or just needs a blow, you now have Isaiah who can play [center], just an incredibly valuable frontcourt piece."

Unheralded, Whaley was one of Kevin Ollie's last recruits. In his sophomore year, Hurley's first, he barely played. He chose to not transfer out, and, by the middle of his junior year, he had bulldogged his way into the lineup and Hurley's heart. After last season, chose to return to UConn for the fifth year granted due to COVID.

Whaley started this season slowly. In the Bahamas, though he only scored two points against Auburn, Whaley played 44 minutes and had seven rebounds, four assists and four blocks as UConn beat the No. 1 team in the nation in double overtime. Whaley fainted after the game and was held out of the Michigan State game as a precaution. The Huskies missed his presence down the stretch in what became their first loss.

Whaley returned the next day to scored 16 in the win over Virginia Commonwealth. He scored 15 points against West Virginia on Dec. 8 but didn't approach that level of productivity for most of December and January. He had 29 points and 21 rebounds across six games with zero points and zero rebounds in 10 minutes in the first game against Butler on Jan. 18.

"It's been a big challenge with injuries and COVID," Whaley said. "Right now, I feel like I'm the healthiest I've been all season, and I'm really happy about that. I feel like I can do a lot more things on the court. It's been a tough season, but my teammates helped get me through it."

Whaley was characteristically active against Georgetown. He was back to picking up the loose change — six offensive rebounds — and helped UConn score 14 second-chance points vs. Georgetown.

Is The Wrench back to being The Wrench? "Yeah, yeah," he said flashing his big smile. "Yup."

With rescheduled games crowding the schedule, the 20th-ranked Huskies have a grueling stretch coming up with 14 games in 36 days. The most important stretch of games is still in front of themstarting Friday at DePaul. They haven't played Villanova yet or Creighton. They face rematches with Marquette and Seton Hall and possibly a game at Providence if a date can be found.

In the Big East there are five ranked teams, and everybody has players with experience with that extra year, but those teams don't have Isaiah Whaley, whose identity has become UConn's identity.

"I don't think there's a team in the country that doesn't wish they had a guy like that," Hurley said.,

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com



Isaiah Whaley, left, guards Georgetown's Donald Carey in the second half at Gampel Pavilion, where. UConn won, 96-73. **CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Hawkins

from Page 1

ble or overthink instead of letting the game come to him. He's slowly starting to figure out the college game, and it's evident in his level of play. Even UConn coach Dan Hurley said Hawkins doesn't need to overdo it on the court.

"I think for him, it's just simplifying things," he said. "Number one is getting down the court in transition as quickly as he can, getting his toes to the 3-point line and being shot ready. Be willing to take semi-contested 3s, he's that good of a shooter. Any time he's got time and space and a good look, he's got to let it go.

"He dribbled less. He was dribbling less laterally. He was playing in a straight line. I think he played off his jump shot more, and if he does that, he will have a lot more nights like tonight."

Hawkins has all the tools to succeed at this level. It is a matter of when, not if.Perhaps the most challenging part for young players is embracing their role while adjusting to the pace of the game. In the college game, you can't get away with mistakes on either end of the court. For a Huskies team built around defense, he needs to continue working on limiting defense errors to get more playing time.

"I think the biggest thing for him is continuing to improve on the defensive end," said UConn associate head coach Kimani Young. "How well he plays defensively will continue to determine how well he becomes. The offense is going to be easy for him as long as he continues to develop and physically matures."

While Hawkins has had an up-and-down season, teammates like graduate guard R.J. Cole have mentored him.

"I just told him to do the little things first," Cole said. "Defensive end, getting on the backboard and getting to his spots. His mindset coming into the game is what we tell him, finding his shot, making your shot and do all the little things, too."

According to Young, Hawkins has a great attitude in practice. He approaches the game with a willingness to learn. He truly wants to become great. On the court, he wears his emotions on his face. Just pay attention after he misses or makes a shot.

"He's a player that takes a lot of pride in his game," Young said. "If you ask any shooter, they miss an open shot they want to go hide. He's the same way. When he's got an open look, he's confident those shots are going in. When they don't, it bothers him.

"You see it in his body language. What we try to tell him is that everything he does is connected to our team and to our fans. If our team sees you putting your head down or having bad body language, that permeates through the team. That can't happen. He's got to have a short memory as a shooter and learn from mistakes and get better from it."

If Hawkins can keep up this level of play, he opens up a new dimension for the Huskies' offense.

"His shooting by far makes us a different team," Young said. "When we have perimeter players shooting the ball at a high clip, it makes life so much easier for Adama [Sanogo], Isaiah [Whaley] on the inside."

Young believes Hawkins has a bright future ahead.

"When it's all said and done, he's going to be one of best wing players that has ever played," Young said.

LATE TUESDAY
UCONN 96, GEORGETOWN 73

Georgetown	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Mohammed	30	6-11	0-0	7	3	0	15
Holloway	30	3-9	3-4	4	1	4	11
Carey	30	4-8	0-0	0	2	2	10
Harris	32	3-9	0-1	0	1	0	7
Ighoefe	15	3-4	1-2	5	0	5	7
Rice	16	3-7	0-0	1	0	0	9
Mutombo	22	2-7	2-2	6	0	3	6
Beard	11	1-2	2-3	0	3	0	4
Azinge	3	1-1	0-0	0	0	1	2
Billingsley	2	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2
Clark	7	0-1	0-0	0	1	1	0
Wilson	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		**— 27-60**	**8-12**	**28**	**11**	**16**	**73**

Three-point goals: 11-21, 52.4(Mohammed 3-4, Rice 3-5, Holloway 2-3, Carey 2-4, Harris 1-5). FG pct.: 45.0. FT pct.: 66.7. Team rebounds: 5. Turnovers: 11(Carey 4, Harris 3, Holloway 2, Mohammed, Ighoefe). Blocks: 1(Clark). Steals: 6 (Holloway 2, Mohammed, Rice, Azinge, Clark).

UConn	M	FG	FT	RB	A	PF	PT
Sanogo	23	8-14	3-4	8	0	3	19
Whaley	27	7-12	1-1	7	0	3	15
Cole	29	5-12	2-2	6	7	1	14
Martin	30	4-9	3-4	8	2	0	13
Jackson	27	2-5	1-2	3	5	1	5
Hawkins	13	4-7	3-3	0	2	0	15
Polley	17	1-3	5-5	0	0	0	8
Akok	14	2-2	0-2	1	0	2	5
Johnson	4	1-1	0-0	0	0	0	2
Gaffney	8	0-1	0-0	1	4	4	0
Diggins	3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0
Springs	3	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0
Hurley	2	0-1	0-0	1	0	1	0
TOTALS		**— 34-68**	**18-23**	**40**	**21**	**15**	**96**

Three-point goals: 10-24, 41.7(Hawkins 4-7, Martin 2-4, Cole 2-5, Akok 1-1, Polley 1-3, Whaley 0-1, Hurley 0-1, Jackson 0-2). FG pct.: 50.0. FT pct.: 78.3. Team rebounds: 5. Turnovers: 7(Cole 2, Martin 2, Whaley, Jackson, Diggins). Blocks: 6(Sanogo 2, Jackson, Hawkins, Polley, Akok). Steals: 5(Sanogo 2, Cole 2, Whaley).

Georgetown	**40**	**33**	**— 73**
UConn	**52**	**44**	**— 96**

Officials: Chiazza, Simpson, Gaffney. Att.: 7,429 at Gampel Pavilion, Storrs.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Bynum's 3-pointer lifts No. 17 Providence over No. 21 Xavier

Associated Press

Jared Bynum's 3-pointer with 1.5 seconds remaining lifted No. 17 Providence to a 65-62 victory over No. 21 Xavier on Wednesday night in Cincinnati.

Al Durham led the Friars with 22 points, helping them improve to 17-2 for the first time since the 1976-77 season.

Paul Scruggs, who led Xavier with 16 points, hit a 3-pointer to give the Musketeers a 62-60 lead with 56 seconds left. But he missed a go-ahead floater to help set up Bynum's game-winner.

Providence (17-2, 7-1 Big East) has won 11 of 13.

Jack Nunge, who leads the Musketeers in scoring despite coming off the bench, made only his second start of the season and scored 15 points.

A.J. Reeves, the Friars' third-leading scorer, missed his fifth straight game due to an injured finger.

Durham helped the Friars get off to a fast start with 12 first-half points.

It was another slow start for the Musketeers who trailed by as many as 14 points in the first half as the Friars connected on their first four 3-point attempts.

Xavier finished the first half strong behind Nunge, who had 13 points in the half including a 3-pointer just before halftime to cut the Friars' lead to 35-29.

Consecutive baskets by Freemantle got the Musketeers within two early in the second half. He scored 12 points.

A block by Nunge led to a layup by Freemantle to tie it at 53 with 6:11 left.

Scruggs' 3-pointer with 51 seconds remaining gave the Musketeers their first lead since the first minute of the game.

Durham hit two free throws to tie it with 36 seconds left to set up Bynum's heroics.

The Friars won despite leading scorer Nate Watson going scoreless. He picked up his fourth foul with 9:19 remaining.

The Friars have five graduate students on their roster for the first time in program history. Those players have combined for 549 games played, and that experience was evident in a raucous Cintas Center. ... It was off night for a couple of the Musketeers' best shooters. Adam Kunkel and Nate Johnson, the team's leading scorer, were a combined 0 for 10 from the floor and 0 for 8 from 3-point range.

Tar Heels make history in win

In Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Caleb Love scored 16 points, RJ Davis added 13 and North Carolina defeated Boston College 58-47 on Wednesday night, winning for the first time in program history when shooting under 30%.

The Tar Heels (14-6, 6-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) survived an off-night by their top scorer and ACC field-goal percentage leader Armando Bacot, who was only 1-of-10 shooting for six points though he had 18 rebounds. Bacot's string of double-doubles ended at 10.

The Tar Heels, who beat BC by 26 on Jan. 2, shot 29% but were 20 of 25 at the free-throw line. BC (8-11, 3-6) outscored UNC 30-18 in the paint but shot 33% overall, going 1 of 16 from the arc and taking only eight free throws, making six.

BC's last lead came at 13-12 but it stayed within single digits and trailed by three after a basket by Brevin Galloway with 7:13 remaining. The Eagles didn't score again, missing their final 10 shots.

Quinten Post scored 10 points to lead BC. T.J. Bickerstaff collected a career-tying 17 rebounds to go with seven points. Leading scorer Makai Aston-Langford had just four points.

In the first half, UNC went on a 9-0 run with six points from Kerwin Walton while BC missed nine straight shots enabling the Tar Heels to take an eight-point lead by the 8-minute media timeout. James Karnick scored six of the Eagles' last eight points to get BC within 33-31 at halftime.

BC is home against Pittsburgh, while UNC, 11-0 at home this season, is host to NC State on Saturday.



Xavier forward Jack Nunge reacts after making a three-pointer during the first half against Providence on Wednesday in Cincinnati. **JEFF DEAN/AP**

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Horschel takes lead at Torrey Pines



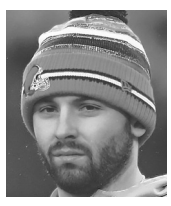
Top-ranked Jon Rahm closed with an eagle on the tougher South Course at Torrey Pines for a 6-under 66 on Wednesday, trailing leader Billy Horschel by three strokes after the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open. Horschel, left, shot a bogey-free 9-under 63 on the North Course and led Michael Thompson by one stroke. Of the 30 players who shot 67 or better, 26 played the North. Rahm's was the best score on the South by one over Luke List, Peter Malnati and Cameron Tringale. The players switch courses Thursday and play the final two rounds on the South. Taking advantage of the North's shorter distances and more forgiving rough, Horschel made five birdies on the front nine, highlighted by a 25-foot putt on the par-4 second hole. The 35-year-old former FedEx Cup champion is seeking his first non-match play victory on the PGA Tour since April 2018. Rahm's strong start in San Diego is no surprise: The world No. 1 got his first PGA Tour victory at Torrey Pines in 2017, and he won last year's U.S. Open on the South Course for his first major.

Mack out as Louisville hoops coach



Chris Mack is no longer the Louisville men's basketball coach after he and the school agreed to part ways. Assistant Mike Pegues was named interim coach for the remainder of the Cardinals' season. The agreement was announced Wednesday following a special joint meeting of the school's Board of Trustees and the University of Louisville Athletic Association board. Interim athletic directory Josh Heird said that The 52-year-old Mack will be paid $4.8 million between this fiscal year and the next three fiscal years. Mack leaves after going 6-8 since returning Dec. 1 from a six-game suspension by the school for failing to follow university guidelines in his handling of an extortion attempt by fired Cardinals assistant coach Dino Gaudio last spring. Pegues guided the Cardinals to a 5-1 start while Mack sidelined and now will try to lift the team out of a slump that includes five losses in its last six games. Louisville is 11-9 (5-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) but needing to win out in hopes of returning to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since Mack's inaugural 2018-19 season.

Mayfield taking social media break



As he recovers from shoulder surgery, Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield plans to rest his thumbs as well. Mayfield announced Wednesday on Instagram that he's going to take a break from "all social media for the foreseeable future." Mayfield recently concluded a dreadful, injury-filled fourth season with the Browns, who went 8-9, missed the playoffs and dealt with drama, much of it involving Mayfield. Late in the season, Mayfield went on Twitter to dispel a story about issues between him and coach Kevin Stefanski. He called the report "clickbait" and added "many other Cleveland local media continue to be drama stirring reporters with no sources or facts." Mayfield's wife, Emily, also used her Twitter platform to claim he received death threats. Mayfield downplayed those and described his attackers and critics on social media as "keyboard warriors." The 26-year-old QB injured his left, non-throwing shoulder in Week 2 while trying to make a tackle and struggled all season. Mayfield will need more than four months to recover from the surgery. *—AP*



U.S. speedskater Erin Jackson competes in the women's 500-meter World Cup race early last month at the Utah Olympic Oval. Jackson is the favorite to win the gold medal in the event at the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics. **RICK BOWMER/AP**

WINTER OLYMPICS PREVIEW SPEEDSKATING OVAL

Dominance on thin ice

Rest of world catching up with Dutch at the oval

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

Make room on the podium for countries other than the Netherlands at the speedskating oval in Beijing.

The Dutch typically dominate in their national sport — winning seven golds and 16 medals overall four years ago — but this time the medals figure to be more evenly spread around. Host China, Japan, Canada, the Russian Olympic Committee, United States and even Italy are in the mix.

The men's 1,000 meters seems likely to belong to the Dutch, with favorites **Thomas Krol** and defending champion **Kjeld Nuis** vying for gold.

But without foreign fans allowed in the venues, the clapping and singing orange-clad Dutch fans will be missing. So will the sport's Dutch pep band, Kleintje Pils, which has a tradition of creating a party atmosphere at the Olympic oval.

Japan has medal contenders on the men's and women's side, including sprinters **Wataru Morishige** and **Tatsuya Shinhama** and defending women's 500 champion **Nao Kodaira** and three-time medalist **Miho Takagi**.

The bumping, drafting and strategy of the mass start returns after making its debut four years ago. Up to 24 skaters race 16 laps, with intermediate sprints thrown in. Skaters from the same countries sometimes work together to thwart the competition.

Speedskating begins Feb. 5 with the women's 3,000 meters at the Ice Ribbon. It's the only newly built arena in the Olympic Park located on the former archery and field hockey fields used in the 2008 games. Formally known as the National Speed Skating Oval, the exterior features 22 ribbon-like light strands flowing around it. After the games, it will open to the general public.



Teenager Jordan Stolz won silver in the men's 1,000 meters at the ISU World Cup last month in Calgary, Alberta. Stolz won the 500 and 1,000 at the U.S. Olympic Trials to earn a trip to Beijing. **JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP**

US chances

The most successful U.S. Winter Olympic sport has won just one medal since 2010. But the Americans have a chance to claim a handful in Beijing. **Erin Jackson** is the favorite to win the 500 meters and **Brittany Bowe** is a similar threat in the 1,000. She could also make the podium in the 1,500. No American woman has won an individual medal since 2002. On the men's side, **Joey Mantia** is the gold-medal favorite in the 1,500 and his veteran presence guides the U.S. as a favorite in the team pursuit. Jackson, Bowe and Mantia are former inline skaters from Ocala, Florida. Jackson slipped at the U.S. trials and failed to make the team in the 500, but Bowe gave up her Olympic berth in the event so Jackson could compete in her second Olympics.

Teen sensation

Keep an eye on **Jordan Stolz**. The skater from Wisconsin is the youngest U.S. Olympic speedskater, joining Eric Heiden and Emery Lehman, who also were 17 at their first games. Stolz won the 500 and 1,000 at the trials to earn his spot. Four-time Olympic medalist **Shani Davis** coached Stolz when he was 14. "He's given me a lot of advice just to stay relaxed and focus on the technique," Stolz said. "Everything I've done wrong he's done before."

Still skating

At 49, **Claudia Pechstein** of Germany will be the oldest woman to compete at a Winter Olympics and the second athlete — and only woman — to compete in eight. She qualified in the mass start. Her career includes nine Olympic medals and a two-year doping ban, which she continues to fight in court.

So long, Sven

Sven Kramer of the Netherlands skates in his fifth and final games. The 35-year-old is a nine-time Olympic medalist and the defending champion in the 5k, the only male speedskater to win the same event three times.

Hollywood connection

Francesca Lollobrigida of Italy is back for her third Olympics. Her best finish came four years ago, taking seventh in the mass start, where she's now ranked second in the world. She's the great-niece of 94-year-old actress Gina Lollobrigida, who was an international star in the 1950s and '60s.

WINTER OLYMPICS PREVIEW

Short track speedskating

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

Short track speedskating is already thrilling with its high-speed crashes and elbows flying. Now, there's a new event adding to the chaos with its Olympic debut in Beijing.

The 2,000-meter mixed team relay features a maximum of 12 teams with four skaters each — two men and two women — battling it out over 18 laps to reach the podium. Each skater races twice in this order: woman, woman, man, man, woman, woman, man, man.

Explosive starts and maximum speed will be on display. There's no obvious leader in a mixed relay, which makes it even more unpredictable.

Asia is a hotbed for short track and although the arena seats 17,000, there won't be the usual raucous atmosphere because of COVID-19 restrictions.

The six days of short track begin Feb. 5 with the mixed team relay final.

Mixed team relay

China is ranked No. 1 in the world and set the world record at a test event in Beijing in October, making the Chinese the gold-medal favorite on home ice. The Netherlands, Hungary and Russian Olympic Committee are in the medals mix, too.

Individual events

On the men's side, China, South Korea and Canada have strong medal contenders in the 500, 1,000 and 1,500. **Ren Ziwei** of China could make the podium in the 500 and 1,500. **Sjinkie Knegt** of the Netherlands returns for his fourth Olympics at age 32 with a shot to medal in the 1,500. Born to a Chinese father and Hungarian mother, **Liu Shaolin** of Hungary is a contender in the 500. In the women's events, eight-time Olympic medalist **Arianna Fontana** of Italy is the defending champion in the 500. She's tied with Apolo Ohno and Viktor Ahn for most Olympic short track medals. **Suzanne Schulting** is a rare Dutch short tracker; most skaters in her country are known for their success in long track. She will be a favorite in the 500 and 1,500. Kim Boutin and Courtney Sarault are Canada's top skaters. China's **Fan Kexin** owns 14 medals from world championships, but has just one Olympic medal from Sochi in 2014. She'll try to add to that in the 500.

More relays

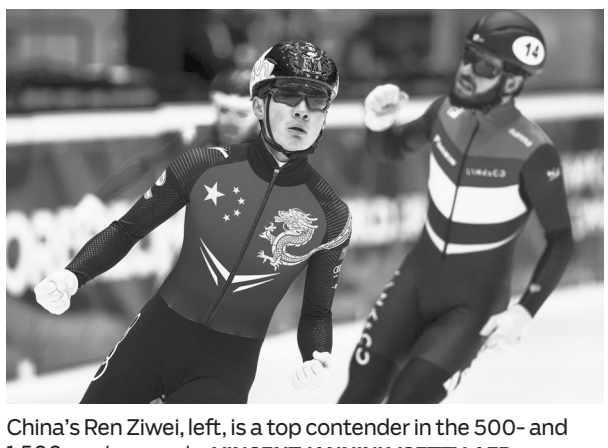
Canada, South Korea, Hungary, China and Italy are contenders in the men's 5,000 relay. The Dutch, South Korea, Canada and China have the strongest chances in the women's 3,000 relay.

US chances

It's been 12 years since Ohno skated in the last of his three games, becoming the most decorated American Winter Olympian with eight career medals. While his legacy burns bright, the U.S. is a long shot at these games. **Kristen Santos** is the lone American skater ranked in the world's top 10 in any event. She represents the best chance for the women to win their first medal since 2010, ranking second in the world in the 1,000 and fourth in the 1,500. The only returning Olympian is **Maame Biney**, born in Ghana and raised in Virginia. Four years ago, she became the first Black woman to make the U.S. short track Olympic team. She finished 14th in the 500 and 31st in the 1,500 in Pyeongchang. The U.S. men have won at least one medal at the last five Olympics, but failed to qualify a relay team for the first time since 1992. As a result, only two men — **Ryan Pivirotto** and **Andrew Heo** — will compete in Beijing, the smallest U.S. contingent since 1992, when the sport made its debut in Albertville.

Historic venue

Capital Indoor Stadium hosts short track and figure skating. It was built in 1968 as the first artificial indoor ice rink in China. It hosted the "pingpong diplomacy" matches between the U.S. and China in 1971, an event that paved the way for U.S. President Richard Nixon to visit Beijing the following year. Volleyball was played there during the 2008 Olympics.



China's Ren Ziwei, left, is a top contender in the 500- and 1,500-meter events. **VINCENT JANNINK/GETTY-AFP**

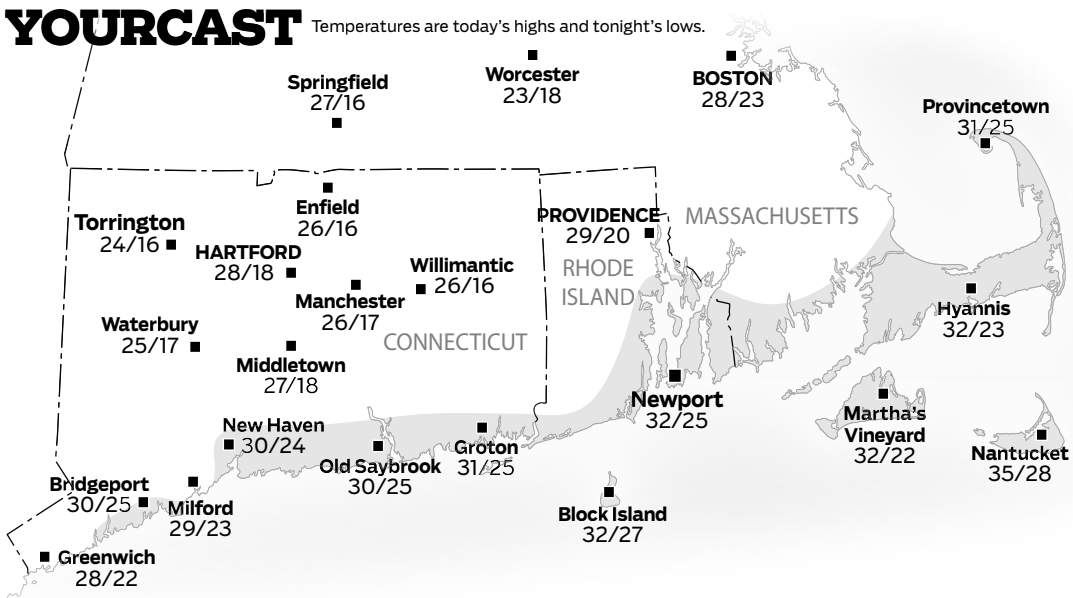
WEATHER

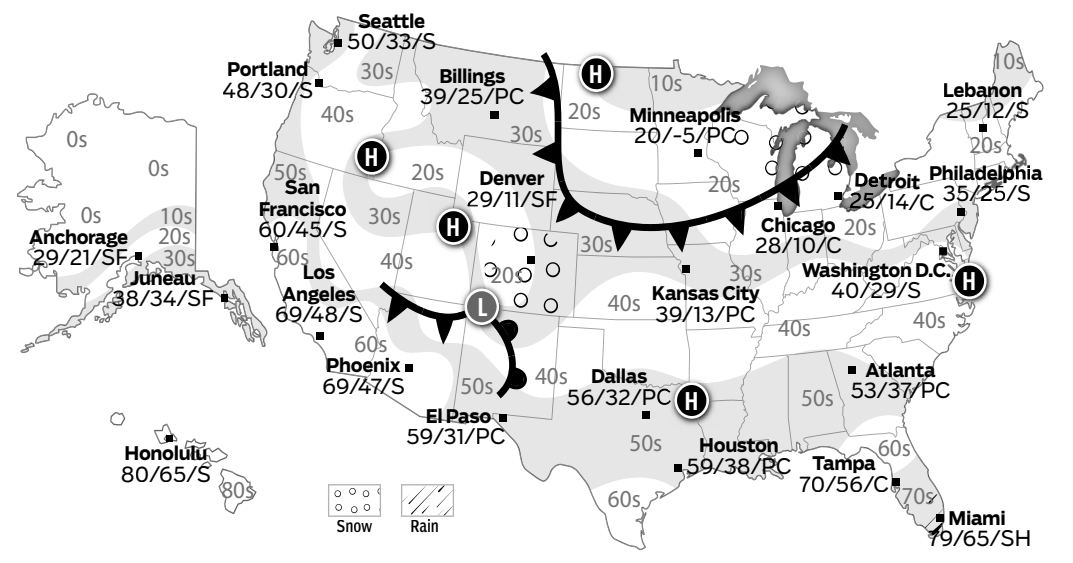
THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET	SUNRISE NOON SUNSET
Mostly sunny and cold. North wind, turning south in the morning at 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy, chance for a snow shower or flurries.	Cloudy with snow, could be heavy, windy.	Becoming mostly sunny, very breezy and cold.	Sunny and seasonable.
HIGH 28° LOW 18°	HIGH 34° LOW 17°	HIGH 21° LOW 8°	HIGH 24° LOW 8°	HIGH 33° LOW 13°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.





OUTLOOK

High pressure will bring mostly sunny skies on Thursday with high temperatures in the 20s inland and near 30 degrees along the shoreline. The wind will be south at 5 to 10 mph. Cloudiness will thicken overnight. A frontal system pushing through the region Friday will cause mostly cloudy skies and could produce a few snow showers or flurries. As the front stalls offshore, a storm will develop Friday night and Saturday. While the storm should rapidly intensify, the location of that intensification determines if there is a moderate snowfall or blizzard conditions in parts of the state.

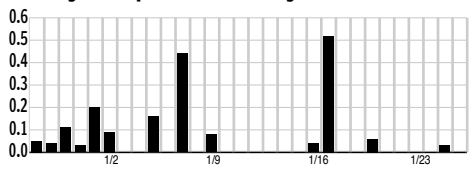
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.11
Month to date	1.62	2.79
Total this year	1.62	2.79
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.5
Total this year	11.5	23.9

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	4:33 a.m. 4:59 p.m.	11:21 a.m. 11:18 p.m.	40°
Saybrook Jetty	5:44 a.m. 6:10 p.m.	a.m. 12:14 p.m.	39°
Connecticut River at Portland	8:27 a.m. 8:53 p.m.	2:57 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	
Madison	5:52 a.m. 6:29 p.m.	a.m. 12:19 p.m.	37°
New Haven	6:12 a.m. 6:49 p.m.	a.m. 12:43 p.m.	35°
Stamford	6:16 a.m. 6:53 p.m.	12:05 a.m. 12:57 p.m.	37°

River Stage at Hartford: 2.51 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today
Good 50	Low 2	0°

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:08 a.m.	7:07 a.m.
Sunset	4:59 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
Moonrise	2:35 a.m.	3:51 a.m.
Moonset	12:14 p.m.	12:59 p.m.

Moon Phase

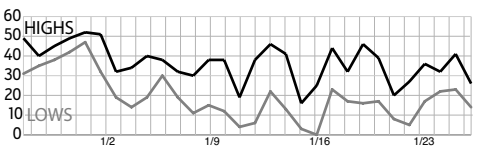
New	First	Full	Last
Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 16	Feb 23

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B. I. Sound
	MSunny	Sunny	Sunny
Wind	E/S, 5	NE/S, 5-10	NE/SW, 5-10
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	1-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	26 at 2:13 p.m	14 at 6:51 a.m
Normal for date	35	18
Record for date	65 in 1950	-8 in 1948
A year ago	30	23
Range this year	52	0

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Jan 26	2820	3153	2831

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.32 at 10 a.m.	30.16 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	10° at 12 a.m.	-8° at 2 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND				Baltimore	36	25	S	Nashville	49	26	PC	San Juan	84	73	PC	Budapest	39	33	C
Bangor	19	13	PC	Bismarck	19	4	C	New Orleans	58	39	S	Tucson	66	39	S	Buenos Aires	79	63	PC
Burlington	24	18	PC	Boise	31	8	S	New York	31	28	S					Cairo	57	44	PC
Caribou	12	8	PC	Buffalo	28	11	PC	Okla. City	46	28	PC	**WORLD**				Cancun	80	67	PC
Concord	24	11	S	Charleston	53	37	PC	Omaha	38	9	PC	Amsterdam	46	39	R	Dubai	82	63	PC
Montpelier	20	12	S	Cincinnati	35	23	C	Orlando	72	58	C	Athens	52	30	S	Dublin	50	49	PC
Mt. Wash.	8	0	PC	Cleveland	28	18	C	Pittsburgh	29	22	PC	Bangkok	95	79	PC	Edinburgh	49	38	PC
Portland	24	16	PC	Indianapolis	31	18	C	Raleigh	47	27	PC	Barbados	82	69	S	Helsinki	34	16	SF
Woods Hole	27	24	S	Jacksonville	59	46	C	St. Louis	43	19	C	Beijing	37	23	S	Hong Kong	72	64	PC
NATION				Las Vegas	63	39	S	Salt Lake City	36	16	S	Beirut	56	48	SH	Istanbul	39	32	SN
Albany	26	18	S	Miami Beach	77	67	SH	San Antonio	61	39	C	Berlin	43	37	SH	Jerusalem	43	34	SN
Albuquerque	45	23	PC	Milwaukee	29	10	C	San Diego	67	48	S	Bermuda	66	59	SH	Johannesburg	84	57	T
Atlantic City	36	22	S																

Kingston	86	73	S	Stockholm	38	31	R												
Lisbon	61	46	PC	Sydney	82	70	PC												
London	52	37	C	Tel Aviv	57	49	SH												
Madrid	55	36	S	Tokyo	52	34	PC												
Mexico City	75	64	C	Toronto	27	10	SF												
Milan	45	30	SH	Vancouver	41	34	PC												
Montreal	19	18	PC	Warsaw	37	34	SH												
Moscow	21	18	SN																
Nassau	82	64	PC																
New Delhi	63	46	PC																
Paris	46	37	C																
Prague	41	36	C																
Rio de Janeiro	102	75	C																
Rome	54	39	PC																
Seoul	37	21	C																
Singapore	93	75	S																

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-East
EAST CATHOLIC 89, TOLLAND 58
TOLLAND (2-7): Nate Bowes 5-3-14, Mitchell Enman 3-3-11, Daniel Kennedy 2-1-6, Cullen Rublewski 9-1-22, Matthew Tybor 2-0-4, Evan Quick 0-1-1. Totals 21-9-58.
EAST CATHOLIC (7-3): Rob Elliot 2-0-5, Luke Reilly 3-0-7, Ally Wright 4-2-12, Samson Reilly 9-0-23, James Jones 6-4-16, Leondre Sanchez 2-0-4, Josh Harris 1-0-2, Mason Cotrell 1-0-3, Preston Fowler 7-1-15, TJ Jackson 1-0-2. Totals 36-7-89.

T	**9**	**15**	**15**	**19 —**	**58**
EC	**23**	**29**	**20**	**17 —**	**89**

CCC-Inter
NEWINGTON 72, MALONEY 60
NEWINGTON (4-6): Nick Gagliardi 7-6-22, Trey Guest 8-5-21, Gavin Grey 3-2-8, Sean Hurley 7-0-16, Noah Tharaldson 0-3-3, Nick Kelly 0-2-2. Totals 25-18-72.
MALONEY (2-7): Marquis Ward 6-2-15, Donte Kelly 1-3-5, Tijion Johnson 4-4-12, Ja'vony De'Leon 4-2-10, Tylee Flowers 4-1-13, Justice Hanna 2-0-5. Totals 21-12-60.

N	**11**	**29**	**13**	**19 —**	**72**
M	**12**	**16**	**17**	**15 —**	**60**

Note: Gagliardi had a career-high 22points with 6assists, 6steals. Guest had a double-double with 15rebounds.
NCCC
CANTON 49, WINDSOR LOCKS 47
WINDSOR LOCKS (4-5): Jayden Buckle 9-10-30, Jahievre Thomas 1-0-3, Chris Vega 1-0-2, Aidan Walker 1-1-3, Austin Smith 1-0-2, Jamari Murrell 2-1-5, Kyle Huckley 1-0-2. Totals 16-12-47.
CANTON (7-5): Brandon Powell 2-4-8, Matthew Benedetti 6-0-12, Isaiah Reece 7-2-20, Connor Nadeau 1-0-2, Luke Maher 3-0-7. Totals 19-6-49.

WL	**18**	**2**	**17**	**10 —**	**47**
C	**12**	**13**	**12**	**12 —**	**47**

Note: Reece hit 2free throws with no time on the clock to win the game.
SOMERS 60, EAST WINDSOR 57
SOMERS (8-2): John Zapolski 1-0-2, Thomas Lafayette 3-4-11, Troy Maia 2-2-7, Brandon Davis 1-4-7, Colby McCormick 2-0-5, Cody Palazzesi 11-4-28. Totals 20-14-60.
EAST WINDSOR (1-7): Ryan Lee 1-0-2, Josh Maddox 5-0-14, Eric Wyse 4-1-9, Alex Giannuzzi 1-1-3, Justin Rodriguez 5-0-12, Juelz Torres 5-1-11, Sharrieff Gantt 2-0-4, Russell Williams 1-0-2. Totals 24-3-57.

S	**21**	**9**	**16**	**14 —**	**60**
EW	**17**	**14**	**9**	**17 —**	**57**

BOLTON 68, HMTCA 56
BOLTON (3-7): Ryan Orzolek 1-0-2, Trevor Buchanan 8-10-29, Colby Marsh 9-2-20, Cal Bulley 2-0-6, Matt Godek 2-1-5, Michael McBride III 2-2-6. Totals 24-15-68.
HMTCA (4-8): Derrick Sheets 4-3-15, Eyad Anwer 3-0-6, Christian Smith 7-2-18, Josh O'Neal 4-1-9, Seth Moore 2-0-6, Russell Smith 0-2-2. Totals 20-8-56.

B	**12**	**16**	**18**	**22 —**	**68**
H	**14**	**17**	**13**	**12 —**	**56**

SMSA 66, ELLINGTON 60
SMSA (10-0): King Shaw 6-3-15, Nizayiah Bogar 2-2-7, Abijah Miller 6-1-13, Kemani Thompson 6-1-13, Daniel Hernandez 9-0-18. Totals 29-7-66.
ELLINGTON (7-4): Mike Bontempo 7-3-17, Louis Gosselin 2-0-6, Elijah Miller 2-3-8, Cody Murphy 10-5-27, Phil Vrakas 1-0-2. Totals 22-11-60.

S	**18**	**16**	**13**	**19 —**	**66**
E	**12**	**12**	**19**	**17 —**	**60**

Shoreline
EAST HAMPTON 63, OLD SAYBROOK 57
EAST HAMPTON (6-4): Brady Lynch 6-4-16, Connor Michalanski 1-1-4, Drew DiStefano 5-8-18, Jye Lynch 2-4-8, Jack Blakey 2-0-4, Nate Ireland 6-1-13. Totals 22-18-63.
OLD SAYBROOK (4-5): Wes Nobile 0-0-0, Riley Lawson 1-2-4, Ryan Stratton 6-1-16, Auggie Albert 4-7-16, Aaron Tolve 9-1-21. Totals 20-11-57.

EH	**11**	**17**	**15**	**20 —**	**63**
OS	**16**	**10**	**9**	**22 —**	**57**

CROMWELL 62, OLD LYME 48
OLD LYME (4-6): Nick Cox 3-1-8, John Almy 1-0-2, Jacob Ritchie 4-1-11, Frank Sablone 1-2-4, Sam Mullaney 1-0-3, Caden Monte 3-2-8, Calvin Monte 3-0-6, Mav Swaney 3-0-6. Totals 28-6-48.
CROMWELL (9-0): Gianluca Albert 6-0-14, Victor Payne 7-0-17, Logan Mure 1-0-3, Jake Salafia 5-2-17, JJ Fehan 3-0-7, Tyler Danielle 1-0-2, Jovan Marrero 1-0-2. Totals 24-2-62.

OL	**10**	**8**	**15**	**15 —**	**48**
C	**18**	**17**	**19**	**8 —**	**62**

CTC
CHENEY TECH 87, WINDHAM TECH 60
WINDHAM TECH (10-2): Dezmen Gaston 2-0-4, Daniel Toce 1-1-4, Alex Johnson 6-4-16, Brody Belanger 5-2-13, Dylan Desautels 0-2-2, Danny Meikle 1-0-2, Joey Johnson 7-4-19. Totals 22-13-60.
CHENEY TECH (5-4): Kymani Thomas 8-0-21, Xavier McCall 4-0-8, Damnic Gittens 10-1-26, Omar Rios 5-0-15, Xavier Rios 1-3-5, Justin Szrejna 3-0-9, Calvin Henderson 0-3-3, Jaiden Engram 0-2-2. Totals 31-9-87.

WT	**14**	**17**	**17**	**12 —**	**60**
CT	**17**	**18**	**28**	**24 —**	**87**

CRAL
CLASSICAL 55, UNIVERSITY 30
CLASSICAL (8-2): Timmy Wright 1-0-2, Manny Acheampong 4-0-8, Justin Benitez 1-1-3, Josiah Perez 1-2-4, Dwight Biggs 6-0-12, Na'Zier Williams 2-6-11, Isaiah Waring 7-0-15. Totals 22-9-55.
UNIVERSITY (8-2): Norman Harris 1-0-2, Yousif Abdelgadir 3-1-8, Chauncey Reid 2-0-5, Nate Torres 1-0-2, Emmanuel Ikechukwu 3-4-10, Shalik Ceasar 1-1-3. Totals 11-6-30.

C	**13**	**19**	**11**	**12 —**	**55**
U	**8**	**6**	**9**	**7 —**	**30**

SCC
XAVIER 34, GUILFORD 32
GUILFORD (9-2): Cal Bucci 2-0-6, Theo Freeman 1-0-2, Brady Lynch 1-0-2, Kevin Goldberg 2-0-4, Luke St. Marie 6-4-18. Totals 12-4-32.
XAVIER (5-6): Ethan Bessoni 0-3-3, Colby Ciampi 2-0-4, Vik Vakati 2-0-5, Anthony Parker 4-2-12, Aidan Driscoll 3-2-8, Mark Schoonmaker 1-0-2. Totals 12-7-34.

G	**9**	**10**	**4**	**9 —**	**32**
X	**11**	**7**	**6**	**10 —**	**34**

Note: Parker hit a 12-foot jumper with 1.4 seconds left for the game-winner.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-South
MALONEY 50, PLATT 24
MALONEY (9-1): Evelyn Beltran 3-0-6, Amal Bahili 5-1-13, Gracey Massicotte 2-3-7, Nadia Berrios-Lugo 1-0-2, Jaylice Rosario 9-4-22. Totals 20-8-50.
PLATT (8-6): Vianna Alcantara 3-0-8, Kamani White 1-2-4, Kaylani Cruz 0-0-0, Khrystina Campbell 2-3-7, Antwanette Tann 2-1-5. Totals 8-6-24.

M	**8**	**20**	**13**	**9 —**	**50**
P	**4**	**7**	**4**	**9 —**	**24**

Note: Rosario had a double-double with 14 rebounds, 4assists, 3steals, Berrios-Lugo had 11 rebounds and Bahili had 3steals.
BRISTOL EASTERN 43, BERLIN 40
BERLIN (5-5): Jenna Wenzel 3-8-14, Janessa Yaconiello 1-0-2, Rylee Cop 2-1-6, Clare McGeever 1-0-2, Emma Ellison 2-2-6, Alivia Halkias 0-4-4, Kailee DeMaio 3-0-6. Totals 12-15-40.
BRISTOL EASTERN (4-5): Taigan Parent 4-0-8, Vanessa Drury 0-0-0, Ciara Collins 5-9-20, Janessa Gonzalez 4-2-11, Lauren Ayotte 2-0-4. Totals 15-11-43.

B	**8**	**12**	**9**	**11 —**	**40**
BE	**2**	**9**	**7**	**25 —**	**43**

CCC-Inter
EAST HARTFORD 42, WINDSOR 28
EAST HARTFORD (10-1): Kayla Henry 4-1-9, Shailyn Pinkney 5-5-17, Nia Edens 2-3-8, Savannah Morgan 3-2-8, Victoria Silva 0-0-0. Totals 14-11-42.
WINDSOR (5-4): Ayanna Franks 5-4-14, Hailey Rivera 1-0-2, Mikaela Williams 2-0-4, Summer Riley 1-0-2, Janet Woodard 1-0-3, Tyler Welsh 0-1-1, Jordyn Bay-Kent 1-0-2. Totals 11-5-28.

EH	**14**	**9**	**12**	**7 —**	**42**
W	**6**	**5**	**5**	**12 —**	**28**

Note: Franks had a double-double with 14 rebounds, 4steals.
NCCC
GRANBY 53, ROCKVILLE 25
GRANBY (8-3): Fem Jansen 4-1-11, Savannah Rijkse 3-0-7, Kenzie Garceau 2-0-4, Katie Murach 2-1-5, Layla Bolduc 3-0-6, Liz Squier 2-1-5, Kayla Davis 3-0-6, Alyssa Bordonaro 3-2-9. Totals 22-5-53.
ROCKVILLE (3-9): Layla Tate 1-1-3, Julia Szuminski 2-2-7, Anaya Tolton 2-2-6, Ariana McClellan 1-0-2, Jordyn Karpoff 2-0-4, Jaidan Torres 1-0-2, Makayla Major 0-1-1. Totals 9-6-25.

G	**14**	**12**	**21**	**6 —**	**53**
R	**7**	**1**	**11**	**6 —**	**25**

Shoreline
NORTH BRANFORD 60, COGINCHAUG 34
NORTH BRANFORD (9-4): Hannah Senerchia 2-0-4, Callie Holzer 3-0-7, Braeden LeBeau 9-3-21, Keana Criscuolo 9-1-19, Marissa Ricardo 3-0-7, Tessa Juniver 1-0-2. Totals 27-4-60.
COGINCHAUG (5-5): Sophie Farr 1-0-2, Serena Fournier 1-0-2, Katie Farr 3-1-7, Alyssa Woodward 0-2-2, Mia Poturnicki 2-0-4, Allison Strang 3-0-6, Chloe Shafir 4-2-11. Totals 14-3-34.

NB	**13**	**12**	**19**	**16 —**	**60**
C	**4**	**18**	**4**	**8 —**	**34**

Note: LeBeau recorded her 1,000th career point.
MORGAN 39, WESTBROOK 32
MORGAN (7-4): Maeve Madura 1-1-3, Caeley Ayer 2-5-10, Ava Johnson 5-3-15, Katie Martin 3-2-9, Sofie Passante 1-0-2. Totals 12-11-39.
WESTBROOK (6-6): Adriana Stranieri 2-0-4, Leticia Pires 1-1-3, Jami Sacco 6-5-18, Alex Zanzalari 1-0-2, Sadie Susi 2-0-5. Totals 12-4-32.

M	**2**	**10**	**16**	**11 —**	**39**
W	**8**	**10**	**7**	**7 —**	**32**

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-North
NEW BRITAIN 87, BULKELEY 32

CCC-West
SIMSBURY 24, SOUTHINGTON 22
SOUTHINGTON (4-7): Luke Penna 4-1-9, Eli Whitehead Ryan Hammarlund 2-0-4, Aiden Buck 1-2-5, Nate Cofrancesco 1-0-2. Totals 9-3-22.
SIMSBURY (10-2): Aidan Riordan 8-3-19, Keenan Willison 0-0-0, Chris Kokines 0-0-0, Alex Pepper 1-0-3, Nate Beizer 1-0-2. Totals 10-3-24.

SO	**9**	**6**	**4**	**3 —**	**22**
SI	**5**	**2**	**11**	**6 —**	**24**

NCCC
ELLINGTON 81, GRANBY 69

CTC
GOODWIN TECH 55, BULLARD-HAVENS 47
CHENEY TECH 55, NORWICH TECH 39
CRAL
WEAVER 71, PARISH HILL 32
PARISH HILL (0-14): Mike Monroe 1-0-2, Brandon DeGrasse 1-1-3, Parker Richard 3-0-9, Cam Bill 2-1-5, Tony Tatulli 1-0-3, Nate Bourassa 2-0-6, Camilo Ardilo 2-0-4. Totals 12-2-32.
WEAVER (8-3): Steven Wilson 1-0-3, Tyreese Maldonado 2-0-4, Regis Benn 1-0-2, Damar Artis 1-0-2, Mahari Taylor 2-0-5, Jamir Hicks 7-0-17, Isaiah McPherson 7-0-19, Chris Wilson 3-0-6, John Paul Jones 3-0-6, Savarrio Morgan 3-1-7. Totals 30-1-71.

PH	**6**	**8**	**9**	**9 —**	**32**
W	**34**	**19**	**10**	**8 —**	**71**

Note: McPherson had 7rebounds, 6assists and Jones had 9rebounds.
INNOVATION 50, MLC 45
MLC (1-7): Alec Lorenzo 5-3-16, Trey Moses 4-0-11, Ronald Baapogmah 3-1-7, Jarell Deer 2-0-4, Alex Grice 3-1-7. Totals 17-5-45.
INNOVATION (4-6): Yonathan Ramos 2-1-6, Jamal Kulaib 4-0-9, Amir Bolden 1-0-3, Warlin Franco 3-2-8, Amari Cruz 8-3-20, Jayden Newell-Kemp 2-0-4. Totals 20-6-50.

M	**13**	**14**	**14**	**4 —**	**45**
I	**15**	**17**	**11**	**7 —**	**50**

CAPITAL PREP 72, CIVIC LEADERSHIP 60
CAPITAL PREP (7-2): Keyshawn Mitchell 5-3-13, Quincy Ferguson 4-7-15, Mehki Tyson-Slaughter 6-4-17, Elijah Garcia 5-0-12, Nehemiah Johnson 3-1-7, Omarie Campbell 3-0-6, Devaun Reid 1-0-2. Totals 27-15-72.
CIVIC LEADERSHIP (2-8): Kyon McCray 6-1-13, Noah Hicks 4-2-12, Jayden Gist 3-0-7, Donovan Brown 4-1-10, Chris Norton 4-3-13, Cam Morle 1-0-3, Khemoni Mitchell 1-0-2. Totals 23-7-60.

CP	**18**	**19**	**22**	**13 —**	**72**
CL	**7**	**7**	**17**	**29 —**	**60**

Others
EAST HAMPTON 52, SHEPAUG 39

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-North
WINDSOR 68, HARTFORD PUBLIC 35
WINDSOR (6-4): Hailey Rivera 1-0-2, Mikaela Williams 6-3-17, Tajae Dailey 1-0-2, Summer Riley 1-3-6, Zainab Kane 1-0-2, Janet Woodard 3-0-9, Jordan Bay-Kent 2-1-5, Ayanna Franks 10-3-25.
HARTFORD PUBLIC (3-9): Ty Mercado 2-1-7, Gigi Perry 2-0-4, Mari Figueroa 9-5-23, T'Shyra Morrison 0-0-0, Tiffany Crawford 2-0-4. Totals 15-6-38.

W	**23**	**15**	**12**	**18 —**	**68**
HP	**12**	**12**	**10**	**4 —**	**35**

Note: Figueroa had a double-double with 15 rebounds.
CCC-Inter
RHAM 39, AVON 24
RHAM (12-1): Maddy Evans 3-0-8, Sarah West 3-2-10, Ally Deckman 1-0-2, Ailish Kleinhen 1-2-5, Kathy Chapman 2-0-4, Grace Whitmore 3-0-7, Katie Hancin 1-0-2, Addy Brown 0-1-1. Totals 14-5-39.
AVON (2-9): Adi Standish 2-0-4, Sophia DiBella 3-0-6, Gianna Godbout 3-0-7, Ashley Blackmore 1-1-3, Lila Aguilar 1-0-2, Lucy Belval 1-0-2. Totals 11-1-24.

R	**5**	**12**	**14**	**8 —**	**39**
A	**8**	**0**	**3**	**13 —**	**24**

NCCC
SOMERS 57, EAST WINDSOR 22
EAST WINDSOR (4-7): Allison Ragaglia 0-0-0, Bailey Winner 3-3-9, Samantha Corrado 2-1-7, Alex Witzke 0-0-0, Katie Blume 3-0-6. Totals 8-4-22.
SOMERS (9-2): Sydney Cassidy 4-2-12, Deidre Dalessio 6-0-17, Devon Dalessio 2-1-5, Ava DePeau 1-0-2, Eliana Wood 5-1-11, Taylor Illuzzi 1-0-3, Erin Donohue 2-0-5, Halle Watt 1-0-2. Totals 22-4-57.

EW	**8**	**4**	**6**	**4 —**	**22**
S	**18**	**15**	**14**	**10 —**	**57**

Note: Dei. Dalessio had 3steals, 3assists and Wood had 5assists, 2blocks.
Shoreline
CROMWELL 51, NORTH BRANFORD 42
NORTH BRANFORD (9-5): Hanna Senerchia 1-1-4, Callie Holzer 0-1-1, Braeden LeBeau 4-7-15, Keana Criscuolo 6-3-17, Marissa Ricardo 2-1-5. Totals 13-13-42.
CROMWELL (8-1): Grace Mikan 2-0-6, Cameryn Hickey 2-0-4, Jessica Grodzicki 4-3-13, Nevaeh Clark 6-5-17, Adela Cecunjanin 3-5-11. Totals 17-13-51.

NB	**12**	**14**	**5**	**11 —**	**42**
C	**14**	**12**	**14**	**11 —**	**51**

Others
HMTCA 46, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST 42
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST (2-8): Dejasiah Jones 7-2-22, Arya Grace-Pearson 5-6-16, Kehara Robinson 1-0-2, Kadejah Weede 1-0-2. Totals 14-8-42.
HMTCA (3-9): Nyasia Pitts 4-2-11, Jazlyn Vega 4-1-9, Michelle Sharp 6-0-12, Destiny Jones 2-0-4, Deysha Rivera 4-1-10. Totals 20-4-46.

AF	**10**	**7**	**17**	**8 —**	**42**
H	**12**	**12**	**11**	**11 —**	**46**

GRASSO TECH 58, MLC 33
GRASSO TECH (1-7): Sophie Byrne 4-2-14, Sam Post 2-1-5, Melanie Hernandez 2-0-4, A'zarria Darden 6-4-16, Mya Guilmette 4-2-10, Shelby Oloski 4-1-9. Totals 22-10-58.
MLC (0-11): Natalia Dupiton 0-0-0, Tene McFarlane 6-2-14, Aaliyah Graves 8-1-17, Deajah Minnifield 1-0-2, Dominique Pierre-Emile 0-0-0. Totals 15-3-33.

GT	**15**	**13**	**18**	**12 —**	**58**
M	**10**	**5**	**11**	**7 —**	**33**

GRANBY 40, PLAINVILLE 14

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-South
WETHERSFIELD 4, ROCKY HILL CO-OP 1

RH	**1**	**0**	**0**	**—**	**1**
W	**2**	**1**	**1**	**—**	**4**

Goals: W—Colby Quinn (2), Will McCarter, Chase Courtemanche; **RH—**Brody Davidson. **Saves: W—**Owen Thulen, 21; **RH—**Aaron McLeod, 32. Rec.: **W—**8-2-2; **RH—**5-6. **Note:** Jay Socha and Jack Millen each had 2assists.

SCC/SWC
XAVIER 5, FAIRFIELD PREP 3

GIRLS HOCKEY

Others
AVON CO-OP 6, HAND CO-OP 0

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC-West
SOUTHINGTON 92, CONARD 73
Note: Peter Zalewski (100/200free), Matt Niro (50free/100back) and Landon Colby (100fly/100 breast) were all double winners for Southington.

THURSDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES AT 6:45 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-**Inter:** RHAM at Bulkeley; Middletown at Enfield; South Windsor at Simsbury; Plainville at Bloomfield; Maloney at East Hartford; Bristol Central at Hartford Public; E.O. Smith at Hall
Shoreline: Coginchaug at Valley Regional, 7 p.m.; Cromwell at North Branford, 7p.m.
SCC: Guilford at Hand, 7p.m.; Xavier at North Haven, 7p.m.; Cheshire at Branford, 7p.m.; Sheehan at East Haven, 7p.m.
ECC: Stonington at Windham, 7p.m.
Others: Prince Tech at Ledyard, 6:30p.m.; Thomaston at Windsor Locks; Lyman Memorial at Coventry; Innovation at HMTCA

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-**North:** Bloomfield at Newington, 5p.m.
CCC-**West:** Farmington at Southington
CCC-**Inter:** Hartford Public at Maloney, 5:30p.m.; Plainville at New Britain, 5:45p.m.; Tolland at Rocky Hill; E.O. Smith at Berlin; Platt at South Windsor; Bristol Eastern at Glastonbury
Shoreline: Valley Regional at Coginchaug, 6 p.m.; Portland at Morgan, 7p.m.
CTC: Wolcott Tech at Cheney Tech, 6p.m.
CRAL: Aerospace at Innovation, 4p.m.; Classical at Capital Prep, 4p.m.; Parish Hill at Weaver, 5 p.m.
SCC: Cheshire at Sheehan, 6p.m.
Others: Achievement First at East Granby, 6 p.m.; Northwest Catholic at SHA, 6p.m.; Hall at Canton; Wethersfield at Rockville; NFA at Mercy, 7p.m.; Old Lyme at East Lyme, 7p.m.

WRESTLING

CCC-**West:** Avon at Simsbury, 6p.m.
ECC: Lyman Memorial/Windham Tech at Griswold/Wheeler, 6p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

SCC: SCC West Sectional (Floyd Little AC, New Haven), 5p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC-**East:** East Catholic at Glastonbury, 3:45 p.m.
CCC-**Inter:** Rocky Hill at Manchester/RHAM, 3:45 p.m.; Plainville at Bulkeley/HMTCA, 4p.m.
SCC: Lyman Hall/Coginchaug at Shelton, 3:45 p.m.
Others: Notre Dame-West Haven at H-K/Morgan/Valley, 4p.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

SCC: Hamden at Hand, 6p.m.

Hartford Courant
FLAVOR
LIVING



Anytime fish and shellfish stew and a radicchio-fennel salad are good examples of recipes you can take liberties with — they are endlessly riffable. **DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Anytime seafood stew is *ENDLESSLY RIFFABLE*

By David Tanis
The New York Times

When I'm cooking at home, I usually don't have a recipe at hand. Often, I'm cooking by feel, like confidently noodling on the piano without sheet music. But, of course, you do need practice before you can ad-lib.

This menu features dishes that can be prepared using that approach, although recipes are supplied. Many home cooks are already comfortable with customizing recipes or using them just as a starting point. But sometimes they really aren't necessary. Relying on memory and paying close attention to the ingredients' attributes can get you there.

Take this fennel and radicchio salad. It's an easy dish to riff on. Say you've got two fine fennel bulbs from the market and a lovely head of radicchio. Imagine the possibilities.

A simple preparation requires just seasoning the sliced fennel with salt and pepper, adding lemon juice, a little grated garlic and flavorful olive oil, then tossing with torn radicchio to coat. (You could also use curly endive or speckly Castelfranco in place of radicchio.) For a more complex version, you could make a zippy vinaigrette with lemon, garlic and oil, then add chopped anchovy (a little or a lot) and perhaps a dab of Dijon mustard, since the combo of sweet fennel and bitter radicchio pair well with an assertive dressing.

A typical fish stew, as served in the south of France, is another example of a dish you can take liberties with. No matter the selection of seafood available, the method remains the same: An onion is softened in olive oil, before saffron, garlic, thyme, a touch of tomato and a speck of hot pepper are tossed in. It then all blooms together to concentrate the flavors. Then fish stock or water is added to build a broth and seasoned well. It should taste bright and full-flavored before the fish and shellfish go in. Clams and mussels, if used, give it a layer of brininess.

A good quantity of sliced Yukon Gold potatoes makes the stew more substantial (and stretches it, if you are low on fish and have extra mouths to feed). The potatoes also absorb a lot of flavor: I'd venture to say you could leave out the fish sometime and call it a potato stew.

Anytime fish and shellfish stew

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
Total time: 45 minutes
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium onion, diced (about 2 cups)
Salt and pepper
4 garlic cloves, minced
1 bay leaf
1 large thyme sprig
Pinch of crumbled saffron threads
Pinch of red pepper flakes or a whole small dried red pepper
Splash of dry white wine (about ¼ cup)
1 ½ cups chopped tomato, canned or fresh (about 2 medium)
4 cups fish stock or water
2 pounds yellow-fleshed potatoes, such as Yukon Gold, sliced about ¼-inch thick
6 medium cherrystone clams, scrubbed
1 pound boneless, skinless cod or halibut, cut in 1-inch pieces
1 pound mussels, cleaned
1. Heat olive oil over medium in a large, heavy-bottomed soup pot or Dutch oven. Add onions and stir to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, until softened and lightly colored, about 10 minutes.
2. Stir in garlic, bay leaf, thyme, saffron and red pepper, and cook for 1 minute. Add wine and tomatoes, and simmer 1 minute. Add stock and bring to a slow boil over medium. Add potatoes and a good pinch of salt. Adjust heat to a brisk simmer. Cook with lid ajar until potatoes are just done, about 10 minutes. Taste broth — it should be well seasoned — and adjust as necessary. (You can do this up to an hour ahead of time.)
3. As the broth simmers, add the clams and cook for 5 minutes, covered with the lid ajar. Add cod and mussels on top, cover and cook until the mussels are done, 4 to 5 minutes. Turn off heat and let the stew steep for 5 to 10 minutes, until the mussels and clams open. Serve in wide soup bowls.

Fennel and radicchio salad with anchovy and egg

Makes: 4 to 6 servings
Total time: 15 minutes
3 medium fennel bulbs, topped and trimmed, fronds reserved for another use
Salt and black pepper
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice (from 1 small lemon)
¼ teaspoon grated lemon zest
1 small garlic clove, grated or smashed to a paste
1 medium head radicchio (about 12 ounces)
3 large eggs (cooked 8 minutes), cooled in ice water and peeled
4 to 6 anchovy fillets, preferably the best quality you can find, rinsed, patted dry and halved
1. Using a sharp knife or a mandoline, slice fennel crosswise ⅛-inch thick. Place slices in a wide salad bowl, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Add olive oil, lemon juice and zest, and garlic. Toss everything together, coating the fennel well. Taste for salt and adjust. (This can be done up to 30 minutes ahead.)
2. Remove and discard any wilted outer leaves of radicchio. Separate tender leaves, tearing large ones into smaller pieces.
3. To finish the salad, quarter the eggs. Add radicchio to the salad bowl and sprinkle very lightly with salt. Toss together radicchio and fennel, coating everything well. Garnish with quartered eggs. (Yolks should have a moist center.) Top eggs with the anchovy fillets.

At 100, baking icon Betty Crocker is still a household name

By Brooks Johnson
Star Tribune

How does a brand remain a household name for a century? Betty Crocker has a simple recipe: Keep changing.

In October, the icon became a centenarian and has now wrapped up her 100th holiday baking season. General Mills, the company that owns her likeness, intends to keep her relevant another century by embracing more diverse cooks and bakers and finding new ways to reach them in their kitchens.

"Betty Crocker remains relevant because she and her product lines adapt to shifting political, social and economic currents," culinary anthropologist Pauline Adema wrote in the encyclopedia "American Icons." "Her tenacity in the American imagination — and in our kitchens — attests to her timelessness as a merged corporate and domestic icon."

In 1921, Betty's signature started appearing on response letters to home bakers seeking kitchen advice. Then she was on radio shows, cookbooks, cake mixes and her own website.

In 2021, thousands of Instagram posts featuring photogenic bakes were tagged #CallMeBetty Crocker.

"Betty has been associated with that pride and accomplishment in the kitchen," said Maria Jaramillo, director of the Meals & Baking business unit at General Mills, which includes Betty Crocker. "How can we make sure the next generations have that knowledge of how to bake, how to cook, so it's truly inclusive for everyone?"

Marketing food to the largest possible audience, as Betty Crocker does, is increasingly difficult amid a "commoditization"

Turn to Crocker, Page 2



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A taste test of nonalcoholic wine and spirits

By Jenn Harris and Stephanie Breijo
Los Angeles Times

There are many reasons why someone might want to attempt a dry January. Maybe you indulged a little too much during the holidays. Or you're just looking to cut back on alcohol in the new year. Whatever the reason, there are more options than ever for nonalcoholic beverages.

Demand is growing. The global nonalcoholic drinks market is forecast to grow from $923 million in 2020 to more than $1.7 trillion by 2028, according to marketing research company Fior Markets. An October report in The Drinks Business, relying on data from NielsenIQ, said online sales of the "low-and-no category soared with a 315% increase ... in the latest 12 months."

The following is a taste test of 14 nonalcoholic beverages including wine, spirits, aperitifs and a couple of drinks that don't fall into any traditional category.



BORTONIA/GETTY

Wines

Surely Pinot Noir, $26.99

This may be the fanciest fruit juice cocktail on the market. The pinot noir grapes do lend a bit of spice, but the dominant flavors are grape juice and cherry. But while the wine may taste like fruit juice, it's actually bone dry. hisurely.com

Surely Rosé, $24.99

This tastes less like a rosé and more like a tropical party in a glass, which isn't necessarily a bad thing, though it might not scratch that rosé itch. The inclusion of guava and passion fruit juices makes for a tart and tangy sipper, and the light carbonation might fool the tongue for a split second, but it's more tropical fruit juice than wine. hisurely.com

Noughty Organic Alcohol-Free Sparkling Chardonnay, $21.99

Both the nose and the flavor were on the milder side, with slight bready notes and just a touch of apple. If you put ice cubes in your glass of Champagne and they melted, this is what it would taste like. It was dry though, and a lot more like sparkling wine than apple cider. drinknolow.com

Spirits

DHOS Gin Free, $24.99

Is spicy water a thing? It is now. While there is an initial wallop of juniper, pine and citrus, the flavor fades quickly into nothingness. All you're left with is heat. But not the warming sensation typically associated with straight alcohol. Heat as in hot chile pepper hot. Yes, it tastes like spicy water. This not-quite-gin product is a better gin substitute when mixed with tonic. dhosspirits.com

Lyre's Dry London Spirit, $35.99

Meant to replicate the potent flavor of a dry, unadulterated gin, Lyre's take on a classic London-dry style gets the job done in shockingly authentic fashion. It's far too bitter to sip or shoot on its own, but a quality tonic and a wedge of lime draw out the botanicals and mellow its more overt stringent qualities for one of the most spot-on flavor replications of our taste test. lyres.com

Spiritless Kentucky 74, $35.99

If you're just looking for that warm, caramelly bourbon smell, this is the bottle for you. But it was lacking in body and flavor and mostly tasted like watery apple juice with a splash of vanilla. spiritless.com

Ritual Rum Alternative, $28.99

There was more viscosity and body to this spirit, which gave it an almost syrup-like quality. The flavors were bold with bursts of vanilla, spice, orange and toffee. And it was warming with a slight burn, similar to what you'd experience if you were drinking actual rum. Of all the spirits we tried, this was the closest to the real thing. We even tried it in a daiquiri, and it tasted like a daiquiri. ritualzeroproof.com

Free Spirits "Tequila," $37

One of the few no-ABV spirits to nail that burn in the throat, Free Spirits' approximation of reposado tequila is surprisingly successful and a serious delight to sip — though it's been specifically designed to mix well in a margarita. Vanilla, caramel and agave tones provide some of its sweeter notes, while a smokiness from white oak and a peppery burn give it that signature tequila bite going down. Some of its burn got buried when we used it in a paloma, but it still carried through; you might want to pour it with a heavy hand. drinkfreespirits.com

Aperitifs

Ghia, $33

This Tabasco-colored drink does what an aperitif is designed to do. It's a bitter, herbal concoction that whets the appetite. The combination of yuzu, lemon balm, Riesling white grape, elderflower, orange, rosemary, fig and ginger ended up tasting overwhelmingly like grapefruit peel. I thought it was delicious. drinkghia.com

Wilfred's Bittersweet Orange & Rosemary, approx. $25

Meant to replicate Campari, this Wilfred's aperitif shares the same citrusy bitterness and vibrant red-orange hue of the iconic Italian liqueur. But while Campari's notes are more pith, cherry and clove, Wilfred's incorporates more vanilla tones, rosemary, rhubarb and a whole bouquet of warm baking spices. It's a little sweeter than its alcoholic counterpart (but by no means sweet), and still bound to get the job done in a no-ABV spritz or negroni. wilfredsdrinks.com

For Bitter For Worse Eva's Spritz, $28

When we purchased this bottle we were told it's like a cider, but as it turns out, it's marketed as more of an Italian aperitivo. Really, it's neither. Eva's Spritz marches to its own beat: It's carbonated, effervescent and juice-forward, and tastes like a shrub got dragged through a garden of rhubarb, citrus, grapes and beets. There's a bitter edge, largely due to the roasted dandelion root, which helps balance all the sweetness of that juice. forbitterforworse.com

Miscellaneous

Seedlip Grove 42, $32

This is the lemon-infused water they serve you post-massage at a nice spa. The company says that the "sophisticated, bright, citrus blend" includes Mediterranean orange, lemon peel, lemongrass and ginger. All I got was lemon peel. It's refreshing, but you can make it yourself. seedlipdrinks.com/en-us/

AMASS Riverine, $40

One whiff of this noncategorical spirit and it's clear there are more than a dozen botanicals involved: The juniper, lemon peel, rosemary, thyme, coriander, sumac and a certain green-olive brininess are almost overwhelming on first sip, but Riverine mellows as it goes, eventually falling somewhere between a botanical gin and the most herbaceous spa water of your life. This is an easy sipper; simply add soda water and a couple of ice cubes and you're good to go. amass.com

Optimist Smokey, $35

"Smokey" is the name of the game, but the flavor note is far from overpowering in this complex and woody sipper. At the shop, it came recommended as a mezcal substitute, but there's really no category for this spirit: Smoky lapsang souchong tea forms the flavor baseline, while botanicals, spices and herbs such as ginger, bergamot and geranium brighten it up.



Betty Crocker's likeness has changed numerous times over the years. **BETTY CROCKER**

Crocker

from Page 1

of many popular products, said Doug Jeske, president of Meyocks, a branding and marketing agency.

Increasingly, marketers are using what's called "mentor branding," Leske said. It's a way for the company to ingratiate itself with customers by offering them more information, inspiration and even advocate for their interests.

"Of course, Betty Crocker was a mentor even before she was a product brand, so the folks at General Mills have been on to something for a long time," Leske said.

In 1921, the Washburn-Crosby Co., a predecessor to General Mills, ran a contest in the Saturday Evening Post promoting Gold Medal Flour that inadvertently produced some market research. In addition to completed puzzles, letters poured in asking for baking advice, and the company concocted a character to answer them. "Betty" was chosen for its friendliness; "Crocker" was the last name of a retired company board member.

And in 1924, Betty was given a voice — and later a variety of voices — with a daytime radio program. "Betty Crocker Cooking School of the Air" debuted on WCCO (the station's call sign named after its then-owner, Washburn-Crosby Co.). The show was picked up by NBC and would run for more than two decades.

In the 1930s, Betty was officially personified for the first time beyond a voice and a signature: A painted portrait released in 1936 was the first of eight different faces for the brand over the next 60 years.

The short-lived "Betty Crocker Show" premiered on CBS in 1950, one of several programs to feature Adelaide Hawley Cumming as the "First Lady of Food" over the next 15 years.

Also in 1950, "Betty Crocker's Picture Cook Book" aka the "Betty Crocker Cookbook" aka "Big Red" was released. Millions of copies have been sold.

"This was the first time a cookbook had step-by-step instructions," Jaramillo said. "Before then, the way you learned to cook was generation to generation."

The pandemic caused a massive spike in at-home eating and baking, a trend that is continuing into Betty's 101st year.

With the help of social media influencers and other modern tactics to reach consumers, Jaramillo said she is confident new generations of cooks and bakers will embrace the brand.

"A lot of people have either re-discovered the joy of baking or have gotten into baking," she said. "As long as we continue to provide inspiration, we should be able to celebrate 200 years of Betty Crocker."

"Betty Crocker remains relevant because she and her product lines adapt to shifting political, social and economic currents. Her tenacity in the American imagination — and in our kitchens — attests to her timelessness as a merged corporate and domestic icon."

— Pauline Adema, culinary anthropologist



12 under $20: Life's too short for bad bottles

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times



TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

It's a bleak, cold January day, and as I look out the window at a solitary, huddled figure waiting for a city bus, I want nothing more than the hot split pea soup simmering on my stove and a good bottle of wine to go with it.

"Good" is the operative word. As the Australian wine impresario Len Evans put it eloquently in what he called his "Theory of Capacity," life is too short to waste it on inferior bottles. That is true no matter the price.

While good, distinctive wines can be found at every price, the odds of finding great values in everyday wines are most in your favor if you commit to spending $15 to $25 a bottle.

Recently I went on a digital shopping spree at New York wine shops, looking for great values under $20. These bottles are not from the most heralded appellations, and some are made with wholly obscure grapes. The best values come from discoveries rather than from pursuing the tried-and-true.

Given the fragmented nature of American wine distribution, you will not find these bottles in any single store, and probably not in any other city. But you should be able to find some of them and plenty of substitutes for those you can't find.

Ask for advice at the best wine shop near you. Good merchants can rise to the challenge of offering a good Bourgueil other than the one I suggest, or another sub-$20 California cabernet.

This column includes the alcohol content. It can be useful, giving clues about the style of the wine, whether it may contain residual sugar, taste ripe and fruity or fall more on the austere side.

Domaine Guion Bourgueil Cuvée Domaine 2019, 12.5%, $14.99: Compared with the many producers who have taken up organic farming in the past decade, Domaine Guion has been doing it seemingly forever, since 1965. This Bourgueil, made of cabernet franc, demonstrates how good a relatively simple wine can be when produced conscientiously. It's pure and unmediated, with direct flavors of red and dark fruits, and a touch of well-integrated bell pepper.

Château du Petit Thouars Chinon Les Georges 2019, 13.5%, $16.99: Loire reds are perennially among the best values in wine, even as other reliable bottles, like cru Beaujolais, creep up in price. This Chinon is a little more structured than the Bourgueil, with discernible chalky tannins. Yet it's immensely likable, with earthy aromas and flavors of flowers, herbs and red fruits.

Melsheimer Mosel Riesling Handwerk 2020, 10.5%, $19.99: This excellent family estate farms biodynamically, primarily on perilously steep slopes in the Mosel Valley in Germany. Handwerk is Melsheimer's entry-level wine, a terrific introduction to its luminous, pure, energetic rieslings. The 2020 in particular is lovely. It's light-bodied, but full of peachy, earthy, mineral flavors and it tastes quite dry, though it has a touch of residual sugar.

Gioventù Chianti 2019, 13%, $15.99: Chianti Classico is the best-known zone in the Chianti region and generally produces the highest quality wines, but the extended area also has a lot to offer. Michael Schmeltzer, the man behind the excellent Monte Bernardi Chianti Classicos, also makes this wine from organically farmed grapes grown in the greater Chianti area. It's bright with zippy acidity, simple and easy to enjoy.

Valravn Sonoma County Chardonnay 2020, 14.2%, $19.99: California chardonnay has the reputation of being extravagant, oaky and overblown, but this wine is the antithesis, subtle rather than excessive. Valravn obtains grapes from all over Sonoma. For this bottle they come from three areas: the Sonoma Coast, the Russian River Valley and the Petaluma Gap. It's rich yet balanced, with inviting flavors of apples, herbs and sweet corn.

Gulp/Hablo Spain Verdejo/Sauvignon Blanc 2020, 11.5%, $19.99, 1 liter: This is an orange wine, a white made using red wine techniques. The juice of the grapes is macerated with the skins, which provide a tinge of color and a mild rasp of tannin. The grapes, half verdejo and half sauvignon blanc, are grown organically and the winemaker is the excellent Juan Antonio Ponce of Bodegas Ponce, one of the best producers in Manchuela in eastern Spain. The wine is textured and aromatic, fresh and refreshing with flavors of citrus and sauvignon blanc pungency.

Ultraviolet California Cabernet Sauvignon 2020, 14.5%, $17.99: Samantha Sheehan makes chardonnay, pinot noir and a variety of rosés under the label POE Wines. She uses the Ultraviolet label for cabernet sauvignons like this one, a pure California expression of ripe fruit that is nonetheless well balanced. This is a juicy, fresh, voluptuous wine that never goes over the top. If you like fruity California cabernets, this is an excellent bottle.

Ver Sacrum Los Chacayes — Valle de Uco Monastrell 2018, 13%, $19.99: This is the first time I've tried Ver Sacrum's monastrell and it's lovely, though lighter and easier-going than I would have expected. Under its French name, mourvèdre, the primary red grape of Bandol, the wines can be tannic beasts. But Ver Sacrum produces this wine with semicarbonic fermentation, a method common in Beaujolais and in many natural wines, yielding a juicy, aromatic, immediately pleasing wine.

Domaine Faillenc Sainte Marie Corbières 2019, 14%, $16: Some of my favorite wines from the Languedoc region of southern France have a sort of wild, rustic quality that contrasts with the often overly polished nature of many modern wines. This Corbières is a good example of what I mean. It's made of equal parts syrah, grenache and cinsault, a typical regional combination, and it's lively, fruity and floral, with clear herbal notes and just enough tannins to offer a friendly bite. Perfect for a beef stew or a hearty soup.

Akutain Rioja Cosecha 2018, 12.5%, $17.99: This is the first Rioja I've tried from Akutain, which farms around 16 acres in the Rioja Alta region. Cosecha means unaged, and this wine essentially was fermented in fiberglass vats and bottled, capturing the juicy immediacy of the tempranillo fruit. It's spicy and earthy, easy to drink and deliciously refreshing.

Puech Redon Vin de France Pour de Vrai Pétillant Naturel 2020, 11%, $19.99: Puech Redon is an estate in the Languedoc region of southern France. After Cyril Cuche took over management from his father, he began farming organically in 2008. More recently, with the help of the excellent Rhône producer Éric Texier, he has begun making wine naturally, without adding sulfur dioxide, an almost universally employed stabilizer and antioxidant. This white pét-nat is made of red grapes, primarily cinsault, with 15% syrah. It's tangy, easy, simple and refreshing, like biting into a piece of fresh fruit.

Domaine de l'Enchantoir Saumur Blanc 2019, 13%, $17.99: I love chenin blanc from the Loire Valley, yet the most famous appellations, like Vouvray and Savennières, are increasingly difficult to find for less than $20. Fortunately, Saumur Blanc, in the Anjou region, still offers good deals like this bottle from Domaine de l'Enchantoir, where the Brunet family farms roughly 40 acres organically. It's inviting and richly textured yet light-bodied, with lovely floral and citrus flavors.

One-pot pasta dinner is full of salty seafood flavor

America's Test Kitchen

Shrimp is the most popular seafood in the United States. These slightly sweet, mild-flavored crustaceans are full of interesting science. Take a deep dive into these fascinating facts.



This one-pot meal takes less than an hour to make.
AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Shrimp change color when they cook

Most raw shrimp are a gray-black color. But when you cook them, they turn pink. Why the color change? Shrimp contain a pigment called astaxanthin that is released when the shrimp reach about 120 degrees. Bonus fishy fact: Salmon have pink flesh because they eat shrimp and krill, a shrimp relative that contains the same pigment.

Shrimp come in lots of sizes

There are about 2,000 species of shrimp around the world, and humans eat around 300 of them — from common whiteleg shrimp to beautiful royal red shrimp. Some species are harvested when they're super tiny, dried and used in all sorts of dishes, including soups, salads and stir-fries. On the other hand, black tiger shrimp can grow as long as 13 inches.

The shell is full of flavor

Shrimp shells contain proteins, sugars and compounds called glutamates and nucleotides, which have a savory umami taste. If you cook shrimp shells, their proteins and sugars undergo a special chemical reaction that gives them even more flavor. But peeling shrimp is a lot of work. In this recipe, we use peeled shrimp and add another ocean ingredient — clam juice — to boost this dish's salty seafood flavor.

One-pot garlicky shrimp pasta

Makes: 4 servings
1 pound frozen peeled and deveined extra-large shrimp (21 to 25 per pound), thawed and tails removed
⅛ teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon plus ¾ teaspoon salt, measured separately
1 tablespoon plus 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, measured separately
6 to 8 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
⅛ teaspoon red pepper flakes
3 cups water
2 cups chicken broth
½ cup clam juice
4 ½ cups medium pasta shells (12 ounces)
½ teaspoon grated lemon zest plus 2 tablespoons juice, zested and squeezed from 1 lemon
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

1. In a medium bowl, combine shrimp, pepper and ½ teaspoon salt. Stir until shrimp are evenly coated.

2. In a Dutch oven, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat for 2 minutes (oil should be hot but not smoking). Add shrimp to pot and spread in a single layer. Cook shrimp, without stirring, until edges turn pink, about 1 minute.

3. Stir shrimp and cook until pink all over, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Turn off heat. Transfer shrimp to a large plate.

4. Add garlic, red pepper flakes and the remaining 2 tablespoons oil to the pot. Cook over low heat, stirring often with clean rubber spatula, until garlic is just beginning to turn golden, 4 to 6 minutes.

5. Stir in water, broth, clam juice, pasta and remaining ¾ teaspoon salt. Increase heat to medium-high and cook, stirring often, for 12 minutes.

6. Continue cooking, stirring constantly and scraping the bottom of the pot, until pasta is tender and sauce is thickened, 3 to 8 minutes longer. Turn off heat. (Sauce will continue to thicken as it cools.) Stir in lemon zest and juice, parsley and shrimp. Let sit until shrimp is heated through, 1 to 2 minutes. Serve.



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Wine-braised chicken proves that a deluxe meal does not have to be difficult, time-consuming or all that expensive. **DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

MAXIMUM RICHNESS

Celebrate simply — even on a weeknight — with creamy, wine-braised chicken

By Melissa Clark
The New York Times

With today's seemingly endless supply of practical weeknight chicken recipes, it can be easy to forget that, once upon a time, chicken was considered a delicacy.

Thumbing through my copy of "The Escoffier Cookbook," I was struck by the opulence attached to the bird. It starred in dozens of recipes — wrapped in puff pastry, drenched in cream, swathed in sheets of aged ham, stuffed with truffles, basted with Madeira. There wasn't a sheet-pan dinner in sight.

And all those recipes gave me exactly the inspiration I needed to create a creamy, wine-braised chicken dish that is deluxe enough for a special meal, though not that much more complicated than what I'd make on any given Tuesday.

The first thing is to find some really good chicken. If you can get it from a farmers' market, all the better. Otherwise, look for air-chilled, antibiotic-free and preferably organic chicken at the supermarket. It will be more expensive than a standard bird, but going big on chicken is still less of a splurge than buying many other meaty options.

Then there are the mushrooms in the recipe, which can be as extravagant as you like. Creminis, shiitakes and white buttons will work perfectly, although if you're going all out, specialty mushrooms like king, hen-of-the-woods and chanterelles add an even more intense flavor. Or use a combination: A few earthy black trumpets will go a long way in the pot.

You'll also need some wine for the sauce. Common kitchen wisdom dictates adding a splash from the bottle you're planning to drink at dinner. But I usually use wine left over from dinner the night or two before.

When sealed and stored in the fridge, leftover wine is perfectly fine for cooking, and you can use any (dry) variety for this adaptable braise. That means white, red, rosé or even a sparkling or orange wine, if that's what you've got.

Like all braises, this one gets better after sitting overnight. Prepare it up until the moment when you would stir in the crème fraîche, then stick it in the refrigerator for up to two days. Warm it over low heat on the stovetop, or in a 350-degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes. Then stir in the crème fraîche and garnishes.

Serve it with crusty bread, polenta, rice or a heap of buttered noodles, with more crème fraîche on the side for maximum richness — and maximum joy.

Wine-braised chicken with mushrooms and leeks

Makes: 4 servings
Total time: 1 hour
1 (3 ½-pound) chicken, cut into 8 pieces (or use 3 ½ pounds bone-in chicken parts)
2 teaspoons kosher salt (Diamond Crystal), plus more as needed
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed
4 garlic cloves
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 cup thinly sliced mushrooms (preferably specialty mushrooms, such as king, hen-of-the-woods, chanterelles or black trumpet, or a combination)
2 large leeks (4 cups), halved and thinly sliced into half-moons (use white and light green parts)
2 to 3 rosemary sprigs
¾ cup dry white wine (or use a dry red or rosé)
¼ cup crème fraîche, plus more for serving if desired
2 tablespoons chopped chives
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest, plus more for serving
½ cup finely chopped fresh parsley, leaves and tender stems

1. Pat chicken dry with paper towels. Season all over with 1 ½ teaspoons salt and the black pepper. Finely grate, pass through a press or mince 2 garlic cloves. Set aside half the grated garlic for finishing the dish. Rub the rest all over the chicken pieces. Set aside the chicken while preparing the other ingredients.

2. In a Dutch oven over medium-high heat, combine 1 tablespoon oil and 1 tablespoon butter. When the butter melts, add chicken in batches and cook until browned on both sides, 4 to 6 minutes per side. If the pan dries out, add a little more oil as needed. Transfer browned chicken to a plate.

3. Add remaining tablespoon each oil and butter to the pan. Once the butter melts, add mushrooms and cook undisturbed until well browned on one side, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir and cook for 1 minute longer.

4. Thinly slice 2 garlic cloves. Reduce heat to medium, and stir in sliced garlic, leeks and a large pinch each of salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until leeks are tender and golden brown, 7 minutes. Add rosemary and wine to the pot and let simmer, scraping up the browned bits, until liquid reduces by half, about 1 minute.

5. Nestle chicken, skin-side up, into the pan and pour in any accumulated juices from the plate. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, covered, until chicken is cooked through, 25 to 35 minutes.

6. Transfer chicken to a serving platter and tent with foil to keep warm. Pluck the rosemary sprigs from the pot. If the sauce looks thin, turn the heat to medium-high and let simmer until it thickens slightly, 2 to 5 minutes. Stir in the remaining grated garlic, the crème fraîche, chives and lemon zest. Taste sauce and add more salt if needed. Spoon sauce over the chicken and top with parsley, more lemon zest and a dollop of crème fraîche, if you like, and serve.

Pancakes are delicious — any way you dress them

By Sahara Bohoskey
TheKitchn.com

The combination of sweet and salty is always a good idea. These pillowy pancakes take on a hint of earthy aroma from peanut butter. (Our cross-tester confirmed that the taste is subtle and kid-approved.)

I like to enjoy them with salted toasted peanuts to balance out the sweetness. But fresh-cut rounds of banana with chocolate chips — and maple syrup or maple butter — would be also be perfect.

This pancake batter is made in a specific order, with flour being last to ensure the peanut butter, butter and eggs specifically emulsify. It gives you plenty of time to keep mixing until you achieve that goal.

Adding flour to the batter last ensures a fluffy and airy pancake and, because you're only using one bowl, reduces mess. Mixing the peanut butter, melted butter and (room temperature) eggs first allows for proper emulsification.

And adding the leavening during this step (instead of with the flour) promises good distribution without over-mixing — something I learned from one of my cooking idols, Deb Perelman of The Smitten Kitchen. I love this trick and apply it to all of my baking escapades. You should, too.

Keep cooked pancakes warm in an oven heated to 200 degrees while you finish your batch of pancakes.



These peanut butter pancakes are the perfect blend of sweet and salty. **CHRISTOPHER TESTANI/THEKITCHN.COM**

Peanut butter pancakes

Makes: 8 to 10 pancakes (4 servings)
2 large eggs
4 tablespoons (½ stick) unsalted butter
⅓ cup smooth peanut butter
¼ cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
⅛ teaspoon kosher salt
½ cup whole milk
¾ cup all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon neutral oil, such as peanut oil or refined coconut oil, plus more as needed
Maple syrup and chopped toasted peanuts, for serving (optional)

1. Let 2 large eggs sit on the counter until room temperature, about 1 hour.

2. Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat the oven to 200 degrees.

3. Melt 4 tablespoons unsalted butter in a large nonstick frying pan over medium-high heat. Transfer to a large bowl and reserve the pan for later (do not wash).

4. Add ⅓ cup smooth peanut butter, ¼ cup granulated sugar, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, the eggs and ⅛ teaspoon kosher salt to the bowl and whisk until well-combined. Add ½ cup whole milk and whisk to combine. Add ¾ cup all-purpose flour and stir with a wooden spoon or flexible spatula until just combined. Do not overmix — some lumps are OK.

5. Heat 1 tablespoon neutral oil in the reserved frying pan over medium-low heat until shimmering. Add ¼-cup portions of the batter to the pan, cooking 4 at a time, and spread the batter into 3-inch-wide rounds. Cook until bubbles appear on the surface of the pancakes and the bottoms are golden, 2 to 4 minutes. Flip and cook until the second side is golden, 1 to 3 minutes more.

6. Transfer to a baking sheet and keep warm in the oven. Repeat with the remaining batter, adding more oil to the pan as needed. Serve warm with maple syrup and chopped toasted peanuts, if desired.

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